

MY WORLDVIEW

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My Worldview

Forty-five years ago, Equitte just graduated from high school with honors. She was only 16 years old. She met Priscilla, a nurse who just came home from the United States of America. She wants to be like her; to become a registered nurse, with a happy family and three bright children. Priscilla was her idol. She wants to be a doctor but now has changed her dream due to her admiration at Priscilla. She enrolled at a local college of nursing and became a registered nurse. Going through nursing school was financially difficult because there was no financial aid available in the Philippines. While in nursing in school, she fell in love with the profession that had enough variety and challenges to captivate her life. With her strong belief that “God is always there for me, my friend and my creator; He is always there for me” she graduated and passed the board exam with excellence.

Nursing in the Philippines

Taking my own country as an example, nursing in the Philippines stems from the caregiving provided by women, priests, and herbal doctors (“albularyo”). As far as I can remember from my history class, women became the providers of care from the Spanish colonial era to the American period and now the modern era. Early beliefs on health and illness are related to superstitious cultural beliefs. The disease is believed to be of the evil spirit. Another remarkable fact in my country is we are predominantly Catholic. People believe that spirituality provides an individual a healing energy. Religion and spirituality are not the same. Religion gives us cues and words to live by to make us better people. The Catholic church, for instance, has a priest where you can hear the words of God and where you can feel the good energy coming from the stem. In most societal structures in which we now live, religions and worldviews are characterized by a strong traditional tendency towards individualism and connection to the community.

My Worldview

A worldview is how you look at the world, how you think and operate why things happen. One’s worldview, is one’s philosophy of life, outlook on life, faith or even religion. I define worldview as for how I see the world as a whole and my belief in God, our creator.

Worldview means “Philosophy of life that answers all the most fundamental questions of human existence (Tilburt, 2010). According to Koltko-Rivera, et al., “they provide the epistemic and ontological foundations for other beliefs within the system.” As an educator, I believe that worldview is an important concept for educating health professionals about their own beliefs and assumptions that may impact the care they deliver. I give Foucault credence on how he insinuates that knowledge is power. I believe that knowledge is not constant, but it changes all the time. As a clinician, worldview is caring the patient as a whole.

Worldview and Holism

We have many nursing theorists that influenced our nursing foundations. Priscilla has a strong influence on one person’s dream of becoming a nurse. Priscilla bequeathed with epistemology and ontology in nursing. Holistic nursing is caring and healing the person as a whole. Nurses associate holistic nursing with the practice of alternative or complementary therapies (Sarkis and Skoner, 1987). Holistic practitioners frequently use complementary therapies to access healing potentials, like the herbal doctors in the Philippines. The holistic nurse serves as an instrument of healing and as a facilitator of healing (Frish, 2001). The Filipina nurses’ superstitious beliefs and empiricism were her foundations is early nursing.

Fawcett’s (2005) reaction to worldview, that human being is a bio-psycho-social-spiritual person who reacts to external environmental stimuli. Change occurs, and stability is valued. Cody (1994) notes that the focus of human response in this worldview is to either adapt to or control the environment. Change is probabilistic, a function of multiple antecedent factors, and may be continuous or only for survival (Cody, 1994).

Worldview and Philosophy

Epistemologically, as a nurse practitioner and educator, collaboration locally and internationally should be the center of our pedagogic strategies. Pedagogically speaking, the interesting question is whether there is a place of worldview education in schools. To be precise, we can ask whether there is a place of worldview education in all levels of learning at school. If

the answer is positive, how do we incorporate worldview education and have a fruitful result? As a teacher, we must bring particular worldview traditions and our worldview in educating our students allowing them to get acquainted with their worldview tradition and the other worldview tradition at the institutional level. The concept will stimulate the students to form and adhere to their own and different worldviews within the school.

Axiologically speaking, my cultural traditions, religion, and belief in God have a great influence on my professional success. I do understand that everyone has different sentiment to God. God is the reason I exist. I think, learn and understand the world I live in all its plenitude. Archimedes said that HE could move the world. The Christian worldview shaped my identity which provides me ethical and moral values in caring the patients and the people around me.

Nursing Science and Worldview

Nursing is feeling the impact of the shift from old to a new paradigm. As nursing education moved into academia, the need to establish a body of scientific knowledge through research for evidenced-based information is imperative with the change of time. We experience birth, life, tragedy, and death. Often patients press us with questions; “ Why did my wife die?” Our foundational theories were not helpful, the scientific theories about physiology and pathology taught us, the physiology of death and dying; the psychological theory told us to listen, to feel with and to support and encourage our patients. In the end, we turned to our faith to help us.

Worldview in Action

We started the story of an ambitious and hardworking nurse from the Philippines. She told us her story as a dream catcher, the diverse influences she encountered in her personal and professional life. She embodied different nursing theorists to mold her profession. The nurse mention in the story is me. I have bestowed my traditional culture, faith, and religion subsumed to my infused culture. As a dreamer, I am where I wished to be. Happiness is in me.

Conclusion

In conclusion, my worldview is a substantial part of how I relate to life, world events, each other and help me determine my living experience. The Christian worldview is important for my salvation, for the well-being of my family, the betterment of my community and workplace. The Christian worldview is important to me knowing that they are the determining factor of our moral values, ethics, and beliefs. I became a leader in nursing. Tomorrow, I will remain a leader and will embrace my worldview in nursing.

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