

Concept Analysis in Nursing Research: A Critical Appraisal

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The four major methodological approaches to concept analysis (Wilson-derived methods, qualitative methods, critical analysis of the literature, and quantitative methods) are compared. The authors suggest that qualitative methods and methods that critically analyze the literature may be selected according to the level of the maturity of the concept and the purpose of the analysis. These methods have the ability to facilitate inquiry for concept development, delineation, comparison, clarification, correction, and identification. Quantitative methods may be used for exploring concepts (e.g., delineating conceptual boundaries), and quantitative instrumentation may be used for concept validation, operationalization, and measurement, thus complementing concept analysis methods by moving inquiry into another level of investigation. The authors conclude by presenting criteria for the selection of an appropriate research approach for concept analysis and criteria for evaluating concept analysis research.

The abstract meanings of some of the psychosocial and behavioral concepts used in nursing research make concept analysis an important and difficult task. Psychosocial and behavioral concepts are not always about concrete, observable, and directly measurable things or phenomena and may often only be indirectly inferred. Because of the abstract nature of these concepts, their definitions are subject to considerable debate. As one comprehensive analysis of the conceptual foundations of science has argued,

Nursing Administration From Concepts To Practice

Tao Wei



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