



Evaluate the bibliographic production on nursing process in Brazil

Produção bibliográfica sobre o processo de enfermagem

Análise da produção bibliográfica sobre o processo de enfermagem

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To evaluate the bibliographic production on nursing process for the last 10 years in Brazil. **Methods:** This bibliographic study used a mixed methods approach. Data were collected from April to May 2008 in the CAPES journals. **Results:** Seventy-seven publications were evaluated. There was an increase in publications on nursing process after 2004. The Latin American Journal of Nursing published the greatest number of papers (n = 32, 41.55%). Quantitative studies were the most common types of research design. The point of views of the authors of these papers regarding the nursing process varied. **Conclusion:** Systematic nursing care, caring, and nursing intervention were used as synonyms of the nursing process in Brazil. The bibliographic productions in Brazil were focused mainly on nursing diagnosis, which is one of the steps of the nursing process.

Keywords: Nursing; Nursing process; Nursing assistance

RESUMO

Objetivo: Analisar a produção bibliográfica acerca do processo de enfermagem no período de 1998 ao primeiro trimestre de 2008. **Métodos:** Estudo bibliográfico de abordagem quanti-qualitativa descritiva. Os dados foram coletados no Portal de Periódicos da Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior nos meses de abril e maio/2008. **Resultados:** Foram analisados 77 artigos. Houve crescimento e manutenção das publicações a partir de 2004. A Revista Latino-Americana de Enfermagem apresentou maior número de publicações (32 /41,5%), o tipo de estudo mais utilizado foi o quantitativo. O processo de enfermagem foi visto pelos autores sob diversos pontos de vista. **Conclusão:** Sistematização da Assistência de Enfermagem, Assistência e Intervenção de enfermagem foram utilizados como sinônimos do processo de enfermagem e as produções científicas se voltam mais para uma determinada etapa do processo de enfermagem, o diagnóstico de enfermagem.

Descritores: Enfermagem; Processos de enfermagem; Assistência de enfermagem

RESUMEN

Objetivo: Analizar la producción bibliográfica de los últimos 10 años respecto al proceso de enfermería. **Métodos:** Estudio bibliográfico de abordaje cuanti-cualitativo descriptivo. Los datos fueron recolectados en el Periódico CAPES en los meses de abril y maio/2008. **Resultados:** Fueron analizados 77 artículos. Hubo crecimiento y manutención de las publicaciones a partir del 2004. La Revista Latino-Americana de Enfermería presentó el mayor número de publicaciones (32 /41,55%), el tipo de estudio más utilizado fue el cuantitativo. El proceso de enfermería fue visto por los autores bajo diversos puntos de vista. **Conclusión:** La Sistematización de la Asistencia de Enfermería, Asistencia e Intervención de enfermería fueron utilizadas como sinónimos del proceso de enfermería y las producciones científicas se vuelcan más hacia una determinada etapa del proceso de enfermería, el diagnóstico de enfermería.

Descriptores: Enfermería; Procesos de enfermería; Asistencia de enfermería

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INTRODUCTION

The act of care is part of men's history since the early times of civilization and it is an intuitive, generous and empirical activity developed by family members, religious people and lay people in the society. However, when Florence Nightingale accepted the challenge of taking care of soldiers in the Crimean War, she adopted new care practices based on scientific knowledge⁽¹⁾.

Nursing techniques were the first expressions of a nursing knowledge system, followed by scientific principles and nursing theories. Nursing theories represent the contemporary expression of nursing knowledge⁽²⁾, since they incorporate knowledge in other areas, such as Psychology, Philosophy, Anthropology, thus giving the profession autonomy and identity.

As of the 70's, several studies were carried out to design the concepts supporting the stages of the nursing process, and they were expressed in different ways according to the concept models used.

Since then, nurses have used the nursing process as a work method individually/collectively, in outpatient clinics/ hospitals, and in teaching and research.

After the profession was regulated through the Law # 7498, of June, 25th, 1986⁽³⁾ and the COFEN Resolution # 272/2002 of August, 27th, 2002, the nursing process became a mandatory activity in health institutions⁽⁴⁾. It is formed by the following stages: nursing history (defined from patients' medical history); physical examination; nursing diagnoses; nursing prescription, and nursing involvement/assessment. Although the nursing process is considered as a guiding element in nursing care, it is still being consolidated in health institutions.

Because of the importance of the theme for nursing work, the following study was developed to assess the bibliographic production about the nursing process from 1998 until the first quarter of 2008.

METHODS

Quantitative and qualitative descriptive bibliographic study, using the quantitative approach to characterize the bibliographic production according to the following variables: year of publication, journal and type of study.

The qualitative approach was also used to assess the content of texts produced by authors. Data were collected in nursing journals available at the Portal of Journals from CAPES, published from 1998 to first quarter of 2008. Bibliography was raised in April and May 2008.

The search was guided by the following criteria: a) descriptors: nursing process, physical examination, nursing, nursing care; b) complete text available on the

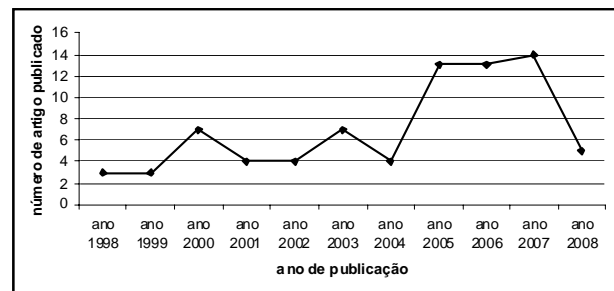
online version.

Two hundred and seven articles were identified and as texts were found, abstracts were read and those that were connected with the thematic study were selected to be completely read later. At the end, 77 articles were assessed which guided presentation and discussion of the results.

Organization and data analysis were performed as of an instrument designed for data collection.

RESULTS

Bibliographic production was irregular, with peaks in 2000, 2003, and an increasing trend in publications that was maintained as of 2004, as demonstrated by Picture 1.



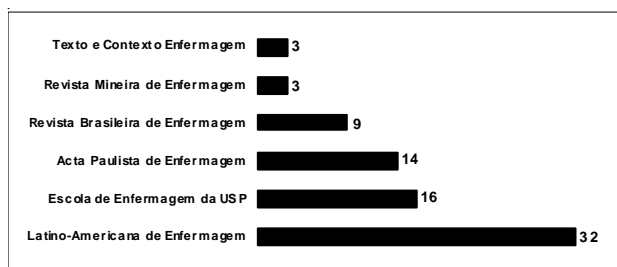
Picture 1 – Bibliographic production on the nursing process from 1998 to the first quarter of 2008

As for the type of journal, we saw that the *Revista Latino-Americana de Enfermagem* (Latin American Journal of Nursing) has the majority of articles published (32/ 41.5%), followed by *Revista da Escola de Enfermagem da USP* (Journal of USP Nursing School) (16/ 20.8%), *Acta Paulista de Enfermagem* (14/ 18,2%), *Revista Brasileira de Enfermagem* (Brazilian Journal of Nursing) (9/ 11.7%) and by *Revistas Mineira de Enfermagem* (Nursing Journal of Minas Gerais) and *Texto & Contexto Enfermagem* (Text and Context Nursing) (3/ 3.9%), respectively, as demonstrated by Picture 2.

The quantitative approach was the most commonly used type of study (34/ 44.1%), followed by the qualitative approach (24/ 3.2%), experimental studies, reviews and quasi-experimental studies were the least common (1/ 1.3%), respectively, presented on Table 1.

There are several focuses on the nursing process used by nurses in the routine of work, on the journals we saw the predominance of nursing diagnoses and authors were interested in and concerned about defining and validating nursing diagnoses.

Other terms were found in the studies such as systematization of the nursing care (SAE), nursing care and intervention, which were characterized as synonyms of the study theme (Picture 1).



Picture 2 – Number of articles on nursing process published on Journals from 1998 to the first quarter of 2008

DISCUSSION

The picture of scientific production in the nursing process that occurred in the last ten years may be related to three factors. First factor: encouragement to develop studies that occurred with the creation and consolidation of post-graduation programs in nursing universities and colleges thus contributing to production and dissemination of knowledge. The second factor is abiding the Law of Professional work⁽³⁾ and COFEN’s

Resolution⁽⁴⁾ which makes the nursing process a mandatory activity to be developed by nurses in Brazilian health institutions. The third factor is the issues raised from the introduction of the nursing process in the every day work of nurses, leading to the search of knowledge and/or solutions for the difficulties experienced, as well as the exchange of experiences through the dissemination of the studies carried out.

As for the volume of publications, the Latin American Journal of Nursing has six annual issues available online within the period to select articles; most articles were taken from it. The Nursing Journal from Minas Gerais had until 2003 published one to two issue/year, presenting the lowest number of publications.

Acta Paulista de Enfermagem made its articles available online as of 2005, with four annual issues, this makes it the journal with more articles on the theme, whereas the Brazilian Nursing Journal which started to be available online only in 2006, presented the lowest number of publications.

Another aspect assessed was the type of study, the journal assessed presented studies with several theoretical and methodological approaches, classified by authors

Table 1 – Types of study of articles on the nursing process published from 1998 to the first quarter of 2008

	Types of Study									
	Experi- mental	Quanti- -tative	Qualita- -tive	Observa- -tional	Case -study	Re- -view	Experien- -ce report	Quasi- -experimental	Quantitati- -ve and -qualitative	Total
#	1	34	24	2	7	1	5	1	2	77
%	1.3	44.1	31.2	2.6	9.1	1.3	6.5	1.3	2.6	100

Picture 1 – Relationship of the themes and theoretical focus presented by authors of the studies assessed in the articles on the nursing process - 1998 to 1st quarter 2008

Themes	Theoretical focus
Nursing process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nursing process applied to teaching (meaning, introduction, how difficult or easy it was) ⁽⁵⁻⁸⁾. Introduction/ establishment of the nursing process in the service ⁽⁹⁻¹⁰⁾.
SAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal to systematize nursing care ⁽¹¹⁾. Nurses’ perception on systematization of nursing care ⁽¹²⁾.
Nursing diagnoses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study/ creation of nursing diagnoses from the epidemiological profile of patients through the assessment of interventions and the associated variables ⁽¹³⁻¹⁵⁾. Identification of defining characteristics associated to nursing diagnoses ⁽¹⁶⁾. Relationship between theoretical bases of nursing diagnoses ⁽¹⁷⁾. Differentiation between nursing diagnoses (feeling of powerlessness X other diagnoses and concepts) ⁽¹⁸⁾. Development of Nanda Taxonomy II ⁽¹⁹⁾. Validation of nursing diagnoses ⁽²⁰⁻²¹⁾. Experience of the introduction of nursing diagnoses in teaching and services ^(12, 22). Application of nursing diagnoses based on principles of the evidence-based practice ⁽²³⁾.
Examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women’s perceptions of papa smear/ reasons for not coming back to get results and epidemiological profile of women performing the examination ⁽²²⁻²³⁾. Hospitalized children’s perception on the performance of examinations ⁽²⁴⁾. Assessment of the physical examination learning in the context of pediatric semiology / strategies and methods used to adjust teaching and the importance of examination in elderly for hospital nursing care ^(25, 27).
Nursing care and intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursing care form a paradigmatic look ⁽²⁸⁾. Classification and assessment of nursing interventions associated with nursing diagnoses ^(23, 24); Definition of the operational characteristics of nursing diagnoses ⁽³¹⁾.

as: quantitative, qualitative, observational, case study, experimental study, review, experience report, quasi-experimental, and quantitative and qualitative study.

We have observed a greater number of studies with a quantitative approach followed by the qualitative approach. We believe that the methodology chosen is related to the nature of the problem /object, study theme, and researchers' methodology domain.

Themes related with the nursing process

In most texts assessed the nursing process is developed into five stages that are: investigation (nursing history), nursing diagnosis, the planning, and nursing introduction and assessment⁽⁵⁾.

The studies on the nursing process have been geared to be applied in teaching and service. As for teaching, studies try to understand its meaning to professors/students, the process of implementation, and how difficult or easy its application is. As for the service, the focus is on the introduction/establishment of a nursing process⁽⁵⁻¹⁰⁾.

Although the stages of the nursing process are developed in an integrated way, authors have discussed more specific forms, such as the nursing diagnoses, and the physical examination. However, there are studies that go beyond these stages, that is, that explore the perception of children undergoing image and/or laboratory examinations.

Other names were used by authors to refer to the nursing process such as systematization of nursing care, and nursing care and intervention.

The study showed that scientific productions are geared to a certain stage of the nursing process, which is the nursing diagnoses, the second stage of the process. In this stage, nurses must be competent and skilled to describe the current or potential health problems and to perform the clinical judgment to solve them with nursing interventions.

To that end, nurses need to interpret information obtained with patients during data collection, that is, identify the needs of nursing care to be provided to patients⁽¹⁹⁾.

Because it requires scientific knowledge and mastering techniques, nursing diagnoses is a challenge to be overcome in the introduction of the nursing process⁽¹³⁾.

In this study, the thematic on nursing diagnoses presents several points of view. The one that is highlighted

is that where nurses try to establish the nursing diagnoses that best serve the needs of a certain clientele, so as to provide nursing care in a scientific/systematized way. We have also identified that the theoretical bases most commonly used by authors is that of the North American Nursing Diagnosis Association (NANDA)^(13,20).

Regarding SAE, the studies focus on the creation of proposals to systematize nursing care and on nurses' perception towards this process^(11,12). They also reinforce the need for nurses to guide their practice from the methodological/theoretical context, contributing to strengthen the scientific knowledge in the nursing area.

As for examinations, the authors' concern is with the perception of hospitalized children undergoing examinations, and the pap smear in its several dimensions such as: women's perceptions on the exam, reasons for not coming back to get the results, and epidemiological profile of women performing the test, as well as the importance of learning about the physical examination for teaching and for the service⁽²²⁻²⁷⁾.

As for nursing care and intervention, the emphasis is on the classification and assessment of nursing interventions associated with the nursing diagnoses^(16,30-31).

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The nursing process is part of the everyday work of nurses either individually/collectively, in outpatient clinics/hospitals, in teaching and research.

The volume of publication of studies is proportionally related to the regularity of journals made available annually and the type of study most commonly used by authors was that with a quantitative approach.

The themes related with the nursing process were organized based on the focus given by authors. However, they do not always have a single approach regarding the terms used, there are some synonyms (SAE, nursing care and intervention), in addition to studies directed only to one of the stages forming the nursing process, which is the nursing diagnoses.

The studies related with nursing diagnoses have different perspectives. Among them the focus highlighted was to establish diagnoses that best meet the demand of a certain clientele, in a specific way. The theoretical base most commonly used by authors for nursing diagnoses is that of NANDA.

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