Developing a Concept Analysis
Prior to Undertaking a Research Project

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Dr. Catrina Heffernan April 2017
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Dr Mark Tyrrell
Dr Stephen Bradley
Dr Helen Mulcahy
Dr Aine Horgan
Dr Tom Andrews

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Rationale

Examine and discuss the benefits of developing a concept analysis prior to undertaking a research project.
Goals

• Concept Analysis
• Purpose
• Methodology
• Benefits – papers

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Method or approach

Exercise designed to familiarise with a variable

To explicate attributes or characteristics

First step in communicating meanings, understandings and feelings

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PURPOSE

Distinguish between defining attributes

Clarifies overused concepts

Critical thinking

Measurable definition

Distinguishes between concepts

Enables understanding

Identity gap in knowledge

Methodology

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Methodology:

- Chinn and Kramer 1995
- Morse 1995
- Rodgers 1989 2000
- Schwartz-Barcott and Kim 1993, 2000
- Wilson 1963
Select a concept

Determine the aim of the analysis

Identify all the uses of the concept you can discover

Determine defining attributes

Identify a model case

Construct other cases

Identify antecedents and consequences

Identify empirical referents
Continuing Professional Competence

To investigate what registered nurses in Ireland require to maintain and demonstrate continuing competence?

Elizabeth Heffernan

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Defining Attributes

- Self-awareness
- Self-assessment
- CPD / activities

Active Practice Integration of knowledge, skills, attitudes, beliefs and values

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Operational Definition

Continuing professional competence is an ongoing process, in which the registered nurse exercises self awareness, undertakes self-assessment, engages in CPD/ activities and integrates knowledge, skills, attitudes, beliefs and values into contextual active practice.
Model Case

Registered nurse Jane becomes aware (self-awareness)\(^1\) of her level of ability to provide quality care for a patient with dementia during her week’s rostered duty on a surgical ward.

Reflecting on her performance (self-assessment)\(^2\) three weeks later she attends a two day Dementia programme (CPD activities)\(^3\) in the local Centre of Nurse Education.

A month later she uses her new learning to provide enhanced care to another surgical patient with dementia (active practice – integration of knowledge, skills, attitudes, beliefs and values)\(^4\)

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Antecedents

• Performance ability (Knowledge, skills, attitudes, beliefs and values) – Education preparation
• Registration
• Regulatory requirements
• Accountability and responsibility (Code of Conduct and Ethics and Scope of Practice)
• Employer support/empowerment (process)

Consequences

• Safe, effective and ethical practice
• High standards of practice
• Quality patient/client care
• Public confidence
• Lifelong-learning (motivation)
• Competence demonstration
• Development of the profession
• Empowerment (product).

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Empirical Referents

Nurse Competence Scale (NCS) and the Holistic Nurse Competence Scale (HNCS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale(s)</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Competence Scale (NCS) derived from Benner’s From Novice to Expert competency framework</td>
<td>Meretoja, Isoaho and Leino-Kilpi, 2004</td>
<td>The 73-item scale consists of seven categories: Helping role, teaching/ coaching, diagnostics functions, managing situations, therapeutic interventions, ensuring quality and work role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holistic Nurse Competence Scale (HNCS)</td>
<td>Takase and Teraoka, 2011</td>
<td>The 36-item scale consists of five factors: Staff education and management, ethically-oriented practice, general aptitude, nursing care in a team and professional development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Benefits of the Concept Analysis

• Clarified a well used/researched concept and identified a further gap in the literature for future research.

• Development of a further instrument with good internal consistency (reliability) and components of this tool utilised in other research.
Hope in Mental Health Recovery
Joan Murphy/Moira O’ Donovan

To explore the lived experience of hope in mental health recovery

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Defining Attributes

- Basic personality trait
- A cognitive goal directed process
- Enabling the possible
- Enabling attribution of meaning
- Interrelational process

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Operational Definition

Hope is a genetic, developmental, interrelational, cognitive goal directed process that enables fulfilment of possibility and the attribution of meaning to experience.
Model Case- Tom

Tom is a 52 year old man with a medical diagnosis of depression, currently well and attending his local mental health centre one day a week.

- **Personality Trait** - Tom is by nature an optimistic, positive character.

- **Interrelational Process** - Tom enjoys his chats with others including service users and staff.

- Cognitive Goal Directed Process - The centre has rented an allotment, Tom has accepted the task of planning the vegetables to plant and feels energised about the venture.

- **Enabling the Possible** - He has secured some seeds from a local farmer and describes an inner strength to succeed.

- **Enabling Attribution of Meaning** - When Tom reviews his years of mental distress, he philosophically reflects that he needed to go through it to appreciate where he is now.

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Antecedents
• Mental distress
• Challenging life event(s)
• Uncertainty
• Feeling angry
• Fighting to get better
• Belief that recovery is possible
• Meaningful information
• Nurturing environment

Consequences
• Strengthening belief -that recovery is possible
• Energy & ability -to engage in recovery
• Agency and pathways to meet goals
• Increased participation & life satisfaction
• New perspective/meaning in life
• Protection -against failure/disappointment
• Make sense- of one's experience
• Trust in others increased
• Being free and in control
• Improved physical and psychological health

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Empirical Referents

32 hope scales (Choe, 2013) but….. no absolute measure of hope: multi-dimensionality, tangible/intangible elements

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<tr>
<td>Herth Hope Scale</td>
<td>Van Gestel-Timmermans et al. (2010)</td>
<td>View on life and the future</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Self confidence and inner strength</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrative Hope Scale</td>
<td>Schrank et al. (2010)</td>
<td>Trust and confidence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>positive future orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>social relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of personal perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schizophrenia Hope Scale</td>
<td>Choe (2013)</td>
<td>Positive expectations for the future</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Catrina Heffern April 2017</td>
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<td>confidence in life and the future</td>
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<td>meaning in life</td>
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Benefits of Concept Analysis

- Definition of hope attributes specific to a mental health disciplinary context- standard language for mutual understanding-to guide research and interventions.

- Delineation of hope from other similar psychosocial concepts, for example resilience.

- Provision of an expert reference point prior to engagement in data collection and analysis.
Nurse Anxiety

To measure anxiety among registered nurses in an acute hospital setting.

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Defining Attributes

Subjective unpleasant feeling

Emotional response

Unknown source

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Operational Definition

Anxiety is defined as a **subjective unpleasant feeling** that may or may not be observed or measured directly, where there is an **unknown source** that manifests in an **emotional response**.

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Antecedents

• Capable of feeling emotion

• Perception of potential threat

Consequences

• Personal growth

• Positive change in behaviour

• Physical illness

• Negative change in behaviour

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### Empirical Referents

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<tr>
<td>State Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI)</td>
<td>Spielberger et al. (1983)</td>
<td>Self-report scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State anxiety</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Trait anxiety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Items are rated on a 4-point Likert scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Admission Depression Scale (HADS)</td>
<td>Zigmond and Snaith (1983)</td>
<td>14 item scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anxiety subscale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Depression subscale</td>
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</table>
Benefits of the Concept Analysis

• To measure nurse anxiety in an acute hospital setting

• To identify anxiety when present in self and/or colleagues and thus provide the necessary support.
Help-seeking
(from a CAMHS perspective)

To measure help seeking tendencies in young people experiencing mental health problems

Michael Anthony Reen
Defining Attributes

- Openness to seeking help
- Weighing up and choosing options
- Decision-making

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Operational Definition

Help seeking is the process where a person must; first be open to seeking help; must also decide on what type of help they require and; finally he or she must make a conscious decision to actually seek help.
Model Case

Jack is a sixteen year old male and he is experiencing low mood for a couple of months. He has lost interest in the things that he once enjoyed such as football and music. He feels ‘different’ from his friends and he is worried about his future. He wants to feel better again therefore he decides on a plan of action (Openness to seeking help). After some deliberation on who to ask for help, he chooses to tell his mother how he feels (weighing up and choosing options). He explains to her how he is feeling and as a result an appointment is made with his local Doctor or General Practitioner (decision making).
Antecedents

He/she is experiencing an issue or problem (low mood).
He/she recognises its existence (problem recognition).
He/she has made a decision to deal with this issue or problem (decision to act).

Consequences

Positive
He/she will initiate recovery through seeking help.
He/she may experience a sense of relief (decision finally made).
He/she will have access to services and information.

Negative
The problem remains unresolved and person experiences a sense of helplessness.
Dissatisfaction with source of help provided.
Negative experience may inhibit future help seeking.

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**Empirical Referents**

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<tr>
<td>Attitudes Toward Seeking Professional Psychological Help Scale</td>
<td>Fischer and Turner (1970)</td>
<td>29 items designed to assess general attitudes toward seeking professional psychological help for psychological problems and issues. It addresses issues such as stigma; openness; and confidence in professionals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Help Seeking Questionnaire</td>
<td>Wilson et al (2005)</td>
<td>Developed to assess intentions to seek help from different (formal and informal) sources and for different problems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Benefits of the Concept Analysis

• In trying to pin down the area of research I wanted to explore, I initially focused on the client’s perspective i.e young people’s experience of seeking help when suffering with a mental health issue.

• An exploration of the literature diverted me to the perspective of the nurse (help giver).

• The process of analyzing the concept of help seeking (from a mental health perspective) helped me to differentiate it from its meaning in other disciplines and branches.

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Nurse Resilience

To measure levels of nurse resilience in acute hospitals
Gerardina Harnett

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Defining Attributes

- Self-efficacy
- Positive Relationship
- Meaningfulness
- Support
- Hope
- Coping
- Perseverance

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Operational Definition

Nurse resilience is defined as the interaction of self-efficacy, hope, coping, perseverance, having meaning or purpose, positive relationships and support which enable a nurse to transform adversity into opportunities for increased growth.

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Mary is a staff nurse working on a medical ward in an acute hospital. The ward environment can be chaotic at times. Mary possesses self-efficacy, hope, positive coping, is able to persevere, sees a purpose or meaning in her life, has positive relationships and support, resulting in the transformation of stressful experiences into opportunities for increased growth despite the experience of frequent adversity at work.
Antecedents

Resources

Adversity

Realistic

Resilience

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Consequences

Adaptation
Mastery
Growth

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Empirical Referents

- Polk 2000 Polk’s - Pattern Scale of Resilience - 20 items
- Wagnild and Young 1993 - Resilience Scale-25 and 14 items
- Connor and Davidson 2003 - CD-RISC - 25 and 10 items
- Fribourg et al. 2003 - Resilience Scale for Adults - 25 items

(Connor and Davidson, 2003; Fribourg et al., 2003; Polk, 2000; Wagnild and Young, 1993)
Benefits of Concept Analysis

• Concept analysis provided the clarity I needed on the understanding, feeling and experience of the concept of nurse resilience from a nursing perspective.

• Concept analysis then underpinned and guided my knowledge development through the choice of key words for searching the empirical literature, theories and models of resilience.

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Conclusion

The Antecedents and Consequences

The References

Model Cases

Empirical Referents

Building Theory -

Antecedents as determinants of behaviour
Consequences as relevant outcomes

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Take home message

• Theoretical framework
• Disciplinary context
• Empirical referents
• Defines concept for research
• Results in a precise operational definition
Go raibh míle maith agat
References


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