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## Philosophy of Nursing

Justina P. Acihayati <sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Sint Carolus School of Health Sciences, Jl. Salemba Raya 44, Jakarta 10440, Indonesia*

<sup>a</sup>*Email: justinearini@gmail.com*

### Abstract

A philosophy of science is the umbrella under which all science emerges. The views of philosophy of science, it has been argued, have influenced all attempts “to know”. Philosophy as content in nursing related to paradigm of nursing, so ontology examines the nature of nursing, person, health and illness. The philosophy will deem same ideas as correct, other as inconsistent, and some as simply wrong. While philosophy of science is not meant to be viewed as a black or white proposition, it does provide perspectives that influence some idea and thoughts and, therefore, must necessarily exclude others. Caring and compassionate into a value that is constantly present in nursing practice. Without caring and compassion, nursing care will have no meaning at all. Critical thinking in philosophy is needed to solve problem and be guide to become a professional nurse and an educator nurse.

**Keywords:** Philosophy; Nursing; Sciences; Caring.

### 1. Introduction

According to American Heritage Dictionary [2], a philosophy is “an investigation of the nature, causes, or principles of reality, knowledge, or values, based on logical reasoning rather than empirical methods”. This might be general in nature, such as a philosophy that related to life value; it could be a philosophical statement relates to belief about the profession. Philosophy is able to provide a thorough understanding of a being at once give the concept of truth in the form. In human truth will act wisely.

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\* Corresponding author.

Philosophy can give satisfaction to a person because of his ability in describing the life problems that are and will be managed on a breadth of understanding [2] Philosophy of science is a branch of philosophy that studies the theory of the division of science, the methods used in science, basic certainty and the type of information relating to the validity of certain science. A philosophy of science is the umbrella under which all science emerges. The views of philosophy of science, it has been argued, have influenced all attempts “to know” [4].

If scientifically studied from three aspects (ontology, epistemology and axiology), it is necessary to learn the essence and nature of the subject matter or the core or the true reality of the science. According the author in [9] noted that ontology aspect of a science should be described in methodical, systematic, coherent, rational, comprehensive, radical and universal points of view. Methodical is by using scientific way, systematic means interrelatedness of one another regularly in an overall, coherent its elements should not contain conflicting descriptions and rational means that science should be based on the principles of correct thinking. The ontological question, seeks answer to the nature of phenomena (ex. What is this thing?).

Philosophy in a nurse’s world, as content as method in nursing and as way of life and practice. Philosophy as content in nursing related to paradigm of nursing, so ontology examines the nature of nursing, person, health and illness. What about epistemology? Nursing epistemology be present with identification, justification of knowledge while nursing ethics look at the moral goodness of a phenomena and the good value in nursing practice. Philosophy in nursing as frame of reference for nurses. For example, as a method to analyze, critique, debate base on assumption, values and beliefs [3].

Several tools to measure the truth of science are rationalism, empirism, logical positivism and pragmatism. Rationalism is human reasoning which is the main tool to seek the truth, empirism is an instrument to seek for truth by relying on the experience of the senses as the holder of a key role, logical positivism is employing logic to encourage a conclusion that positive right and pragmatism is the value of a truth that was agreed to resolve practical problems. The epistemological questions, seek an answer to how the phenomena are known (ex. How do we come to understand this thing?). As a means of looking at the world and interpreting its experiences, a worldview contains both explicit and implicit assumption, beliefs and values about the world and how one goes about gaining an understanding of it [5].

From axiology aspect, science can be divided into six overview. There are naturalism, hedonism, vitalism, utilitarianism, idealism and theology. The purpose is to find the truth essentially over the evidence was or existence of certainty scientific truth. Finally, a philosophy will deem same ideas as correct, other as inconsistent, and some as simply wrong. While philosophy of science is not meant to be viewed as a black or white proposition, it does provide perspectives that influence some idea and thoughts and, therefore, must necessarily exclude others. The significant key is to ensure that the ideas and thoughts remain consistent with another, rather than being in opposition. George Hegel, Wilhem Dilthey, Pierre Duhem, Paul Thagard, Philip Kitcher [14], Edmund Husserl, and Martin Heidegger [10] all have written from the continental philosophy of science perspective.

Philosophy of science informs or influences the development of nursing knowledge. Of various discussion

nursing is to be regarded as a science it too seems forced to acknowledge certain of the difficulties discussed above. For example, it seems plain that the point regarding the theory Laden nature of observations can be carried over to the nursing domain. The significance of this is that even within the natural sciences interpretation of phenomena take place: description of observations within natural sciences do not straight forwardly mirrors the world. Hence interpretation cannot be regarded as the distinguishing criterion of human science [8, 13]. Thus the attempt to distinguish nursing science from natural science by reference to the phenomenon of interpretation require substantial qualification [16].

Whall [4] stated that science is comprised of both the products and the processes of our attempts “to know”. The processes are seen as the discussion and arguments regarding the product of the discipline. Science is thus compromised of processes such as research examinations as well as philosophic inquiries. The scientific products are, in this view, the outcomes of these processes. Such products as theory as well as nursing practice guides are thus scientific products of our discipline. In this sense nursing practice is a product of the scientific processes – not “more” than science itself.

## **2. My Philosophy in Nursing Practice**

As long as I become a nurse, I always do my work, teach my students and practice knowledge in the real life, based on Nursing Philosophy, to reach the best result. Philosophy can be a real thing if implanted in the action with ethic, epistemology and aesthetic. I believe that nursing is a noble profession that requires special knowledge and skills. I perceive nursing is not a personal gain or profit, but a moral practice with the purpose the restoration of other of enhancing the life of another human being. In my point of view, being a nurse is a gift from God. It is a call to be an instrument in the hands of God, takes a part in His effort to love those who are sick both physically and psychologically or mentally and spiritually. Accordingly, by serving as a nurse in many ways to those who are sick, I highly value and cherish the noble human dignity of each human person, especially those who are sick and in terrible need for helping and caring. And as a professional I realize that I am accountable for providing comprehensive nursing care for people individually, families, and group in a variety of settings.

We should keep tight our personal and professional ethical standards at all times. When we find conflict between our personal beliefs and those of the patient's we should attempt to find a mentor to guide us through our conflict and find out a solution that needs by the patient without compromising our own personal belief system.

I believe that a nurse is a vital personnel of a healthcare team who works collaboratively and professionally. I assist individuals to achieve optimal level of wellness through the promotion, restoration, and maintenance of health. I also focus on individuals' specific needs based on their healthcare choices that are related to the psychological, socio-cultural, developmental and spiritual dimensions of their lifestyles. As a nurse, I am not only a healthcare provider but also as a teacher educating people and advocating clients to protect their rights.

My personal philosophy of nursing is the core of all viewpoints, values, the act of practice, and think of a pattern of nursing practice which until now I do. Caring and compassionate into a value that is constantly present in my

nursing practice. Without caring and compassion, nursing care will have no meaning at all. I have little experience of this and based on it, I feel how precious and valuable work of a nurse is. Since became a nurse, I always practice in Catholic hospital which has a high value of caring. When I followed the Magister program, I must practice in a regional public hospital. I received a new patient in the delivery room. She was still very young, 18 years old. After assessment, I asked her complaints and how she felt. She answered all of my questions well. I found out that she was a labor. When I accompanied her to control the contraction, suddenly she said "Sister, do you want to take my baby?" I was very surprised to hear it. I didn't know what to say, so I informed it to one of my friends. But I was really sad to hear her answer. She suggested me to take the baby, only if the baby is a girl, she would like to take it. "This is crazy!" I reminded her. "Remember, we are nurses!" We have a value that we must care; we must be a companion and give support to mothers. My friend just mocked me. "Justin, this is the real world. Not just your Catholic hospital. Come on wake up! This is the reality in our society!" she said. I didn't agree with my friend's opinion.

I approached the mother again and asked why she did it. She confessed that she hates the baby's father. Afterwards, I always near the mother while providing the support and understanding that both mother and child are needed. We spend a lot of our time just talking about life and her interests. At the time of this labor pain arises, I took care of her and assisted until the time of delivery. When the baby boy was born, I gave the baby to the mother, saying how beautiful and clean the baby is. Eventually, the mother received the baby and embraced her with caressingly. Addressing such nursing situation, I felt that I have to give a lot of empathy and compassion to my patient. I feel satisfy every time the mother accepts her baby.

As a nursing educator, I try to make students appreciate life by applying ethical values. When a student who is pregnant without marriage and still want to study further, I, as an academic mentor advocate her for leave the academic continually to maintain her pregnancy. At first, she disappointed to my decision for leaving the academic, but I do my aesthetic approach so that the student finally received that decision. My reason to provide the opportunity for her to receive her pregnancy and look after a baby is that the baby is to be born with great affection. Finally the baby was born and healthy. When she came to my office and brought the baby, she looked happy and said thank you for my suggestion. I feel relieved and I have more confidence to help more things for my students in continuing their study. Finally, critical thinking in philosophy is needed to solve problem and guide me to become a professional nurse and an educator nurse.

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