Concept Analysis of Hopelessness

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ABSTRACT

Hopelessness is an important concept in psychology and nursing. It can result in depression, increased suicidal intention, and fatality. Hopelessness still lacks an agreed-upon definition. This paper applied the methodology outlined by Walker and Avant to analyze the concept of hopelessness. The result of the analysis indicated that the defining attributes of hopelessness included feeling inability to solve the present problem, demonstrating negative emotion through verbal and body languages, expressing pessimistic thoughts for the future, and believing unable to control future situation. The paper illustrated model, borderline, related, and contrary cases and analyzed antecedents and consequences. Empirical references were also outlined. It is hoped that this analysis can help nursing staff to effectively apply this concept to health care services.

Key words: hopelessness, concept analysis.

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