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Document:
Open Letter for Nurses

Original Source:
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November 24, 2004

To facilitate your work, I offer these general steps to guide you about my theory and transcultural nursing insights. The following sequences are advised in order to get accurate information and help, especially with the present great demand about the Culture Care Theory and its uses.

First, read the original book on the Culture Care Theory, Culture Care Diversity and Universality by Leininger, originally published by New York National League for Nursing Press. This is the original book and primary source of the theory. Do not use secondary authors or sources by other authors as they are often not accurate and reworded with errors.

Second, read my 2002 book entitled Transcultural Nursing, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, on the theory and method. This was published by McGraw Hill. These chapters are excellent and can be of great help to you and are accurate.

Third, read a couple chapters in my 2002 book to see how the theory is explained and is applied to nursing practices, especially using the Sunrise Enabler, other enablers and the method. The three modes of action and decision discussed about 23 cultures are excellent to show how the theory and method are used appropriately. If you start with these three steps, you will get a good grasp of the theory and method. I will discuss this essential basic information with you to help you directly, so do this home reading first.

Fourth, do read at least two research studies where the theory and method have been used, such as my chapter on New Guinea Gadsup; McFarland’s on the elderly. If you have questions about the theory or method and cannot find the answers, then call me at 402/691-0791, or send a short fax to me at 402/697-7145, and I will be glad to clarify ideas. I give students my first priority. Be sure to give your name, phone number, fax number, and mailing address in case I want to send you some helpful material. Note: I do not use e-mail as I get too much and cannot handle it as I do not have a full-time secretary. If I cannot find time to respond, I will refer you to a transcultural nurse expert or someone well prepared in graduate programs in transcultural nursing. Again, I urge you to read information that is already in the website about the theory and information about programs, research, and general transcultural nursing which you may be seeking and may not realize is already on the website. I realize that many of your faculty and theory instructors may not be prepared in transcultural nursing and many may not understand my theory. Yes, you can and should educate them by your class or paper presentations. This is great and often students do help them. It
often has led to a high grade on presentations.  

**Fifth**, if you need information about specific cultures such as Hispanics, Vietnamese, etc., go to the library and use the Human Relation Area files. Ask your librarian about this source. You can also seek out transcultural nurses prepared in the specific culture, but do not assume if a nurse is of the culture that they know all about it. This many not be true.

**Sixth**, always strongly encourage the faculty and administrators to get preparation in transcultural nursing to help future students by studying the Culture Care Theory and method under prepared transcultural nurses.

**Seventh**, request that my books get ordered for your library immediately or get an interlibrary loan. The Internet has some but it may not be too accurate. (Anthropology and transcultural nursing books are the most reliable.) Again, do use the available transcultural nursing website information. Feel free to suggest items you would like to have on the website. We will try to help you, where possible, with our limited funds and time.

In sum, we are very pleased that nursing is growing and students recognize the need. I am so pleased students and practitioners are eager to learn about transcultural nursing, my theory, etc. As you know, the Culture Care Theory is the only nursing theory with a central focus on culturally-based care. I do want to tell you that my new book with Dr. Marilyn McFarland, the 3rd edition of Culture Care Diversity and Universality, will soon be published about mid-March, 2005. It is published by Jones and Bartlett of New York. (Now available on the website.) Request a copy for your nursing library early. It is very good, comprehensive, and written by experts in the field of transcultural nursing and especially gives much information on my Theory of Culture Care and the ethnonursing method, plus information on nearly 40 cultures. I applaud your interest to learn transcultural nursing and the Culture Care Theory. You are wise and this will help you in your clinical and general relationship with the culturally different. Remember, I am always willing to help you and commend you for studying transcultural nursing and my theory. Please give the webmaster, John Vanderlaan, and Dr. Leininger feedback on your successes and on your presentations or research. I wish you much success and stand ready to help you.

Best wishes,  
Dr. Madeleine Leininger, Founder