

Exploring Culture Care of Homeless Children

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Abstract

- Lived experiences of homeless children explored
- 4 interviews with parents conducted
- Themes extracted:

Autonomy

Attitude

Coping

Resources

Background



- Rising numbers of:
 - Homeless
 - Single mothers
- Few studies on homeless children
- Purpose of project:
 - Increase knowledge
 - Promote culturally congruent care

Review of Literature

- Studies of homeless children
- Most quantitative
- Few Transcultural Nursing studies
- Historical perspectives, human needs and transitions
- Leininger's Sunrise Model

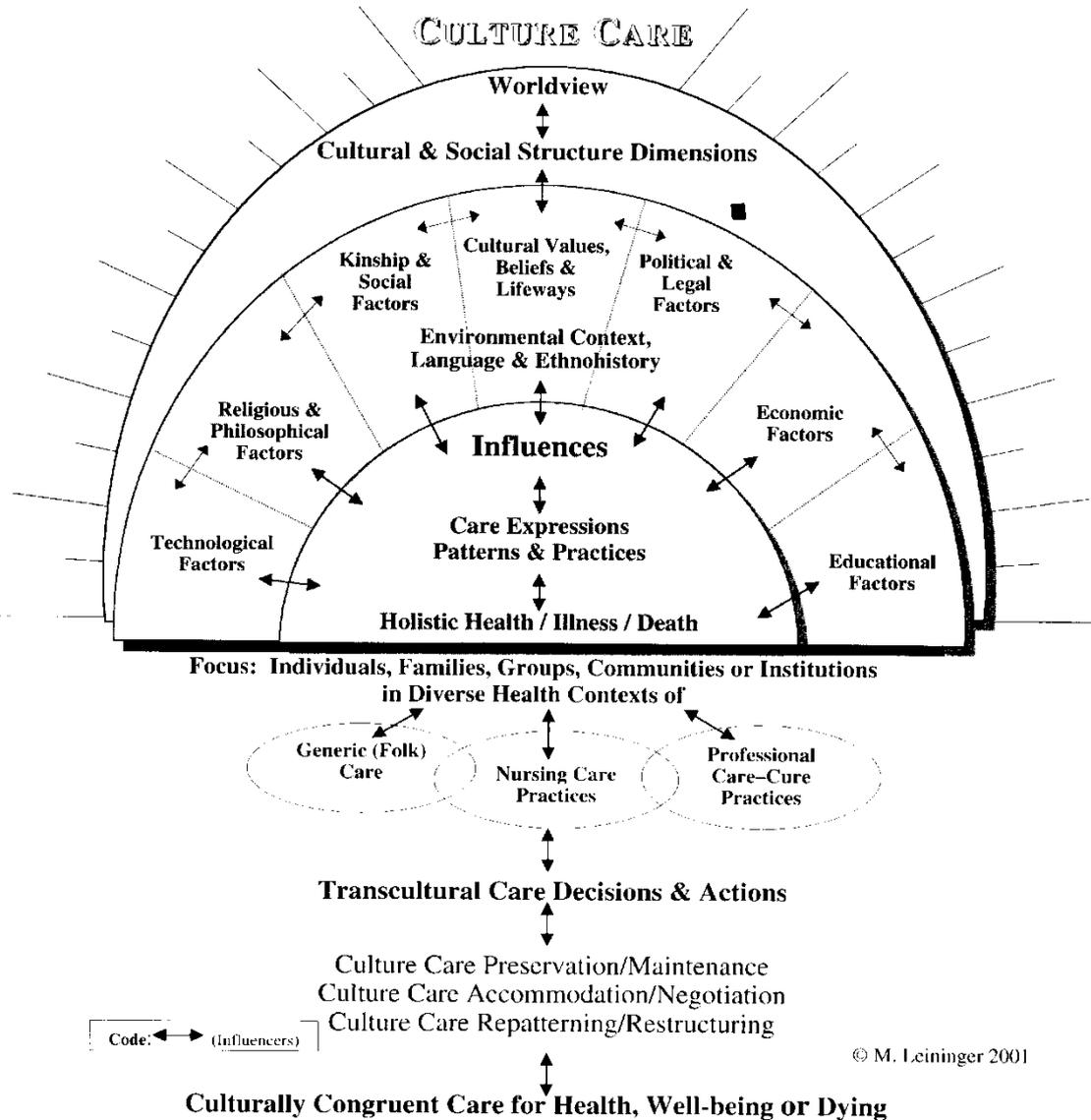


Figure 3.1

Leininger's Sunrise Model to depict the Theory of Cultural Care Diversity and Universality.

Method

- Qualitative, phenomenological project
- Applied Leininger's Theory of Culture Care Diversity and Universality
- Data Collection
 - Private interviews with 4 women
 - Broad, open-ended questions

Results

- Four themes extracted:
 - Autonomy
 - Attitude
 - Coping
 - Resources



Theme One: Autonomy

“They don’t have their independence like they would have in their own house. They don’t have the freedom they had... to run and explore and do normal children things like playing pots and pans or exploring new territory.”

Theme Two: Attitudes

“When people argue...or when people are over-excited talking and having a good time, she starts chewing her nails and just exhibiting nervous behavior. When people move in and out of the rooms and stuff, she’ll act out more. She’ll be more aggressive.... throw temper tantrums.”

Theme Three: Coping

- “She [my daughter] knows about death and dying. Her little brother went away. I think she kind of knows what to handle because she’s handled quite a bit for a little girl.”

Theme Four: Resources

- “Her activity level has really skyrocketed but her diet has gone downhill... I get food stamps now ... to get her watermelon or strawberries or whatever.”

Discussion

- Discovered embedded beliefs and lifeways
- Health care had broader meaning to parents
 - Utilizing healthcare for good physical health
 - Seeking developmental experiences and effective discipline
 - School or day care considered very important
- Facilitate efforts of parents to help their children

Nursing Implications



- Promote autonomy
- Improve adaptive coping and social connectedness
- Provide resources and health education
- Integrate “folk” values, beliefs and care practices