

Sustaining Hope: A Narrative Inquiry into Experiences of Hope in Nurses Who Work Alongside People Living with HIV (PLWH)

Gideon L. Puplampu

University of Ghana Accra Ghana



Abstract

Background: Nurses who work with PLWH have concerns about their well being and quality of life. They also complain of stress related workload due to high nurse - patient ratio. The study sought to examine the experiences of nurses in Ghana and the ways that hope is intertwined with their experiences in working with PLWH.

Aim: In this research we explored how nurses working in HIV care in Ghana live and work with hope.

Design: This study was a narrative inquiry study. Narrative inquiry is a collaborative way to inquire into participants' experiences in the three-dimensional spaces of temporarily, sociality, and place.

Methods: We engaged with five nurses who work in an acute care setting where their primary focus is to provide care to people living with HIV. We engaged in six to eight conversations with each participant over several months. We asked participants to describe memories of significant experiences in their past and present lives, as well as share experiences that they would describe hopeful in their HIV nursing practice.

Results: In this narrative inquiry study, four resonant threads emerged and included: 1) Becoming a nurse for people living with HIV took time; 2) Experiences of practicing with hope were important; 3) Faith in God, allowed them to gain strength, which was connected to hope; and 4) Learning to live with hope was shaped by childhood experiences.

Key words: hope, Narrative Inquiry, Ghana, nurses, HIV/AIDS care

Biography

Dr. Gideon L. Puplampu is a Registered General Nurse as well as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse. He is currently a full-time lecturer in the Department of Mental Health, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Ghana. He had worked full-time as a staff nurse, as well as a nursing officer in a large acute-care hospital and then as a Tutor (senior nursing officer) in a Nurses Training College. He has a 3 year nursing certificate (diploma) from the Korle-Bu Nurse Training College in Accra (1998), a Baccalaureate in nursing degree from the University of Ghana (2002), a Master of Nursing degree with a focus on Teaching and Research from the University of Alberta (2011). Since 2015 he also holds a diploma in psychiatric nursing from MacEwan University, Canada.

Publications

1. Attracting and retaining nurses in HIV care
2. A scoping review of bereavement service outcomes. Palliative & Supportive Care
3. Sustaining Hope: A Narrative Inquiry into Experiences of Hope in Nurses Who Work Alongside People Living With HIV (PLWH)
4. Undaunted by stigma: Choosing to be an HIV/AIDS nurse

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