Imogene M. King

Conceptual System

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NURS 600 Fall 2008
Imogene M. King Ed.D. RN

Additional Info for Imogene King
Brief Origin of King’s Conceptual System

- Lack of nursing knowledge and terminology.
- Utilized many sources of information to create this widely used model.
- Nursing advancement was in need of theoretical body of knowledge.
- Not How….but Why?
- Believed in focusing nursing on the human being.
Philosophical Underpinnings

- There are dynamic interrelationships between a human, their group of support, and society.
- Using a general systems theory - science should be taken as a whole.
- The whole of nursing described as systems.
- These systems are personal, interpersonal, and social systems.
The wholeness described in King’s nursing is best visualized by her conceptual system seen here.

Kings Conceptual System
(King 1999, Figure 1)
King’s Beliefs

- Dynamic experience of life.
- Non-linear process
- Health
- Environment can be internal or external.
- Nurse’s Role
- Series of transactions
Transaction Process Model

(King 1999 Figure 2)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursing Process as Theory</th>
<th>Nursing Process as Method</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>(King, 1981)</em></td>
<td><em>(Yura &amp; Walsh, 1983)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>A system of interrelated concepts:</td>
<td>A system of interrelated actions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• perception of nurse and client</td>
<td>• assess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• communication of nurse and client</td>
<td>• diagnose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• interaction of nurse and client</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• decision-making about goals by nurse</td>
<td>• plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and client <em>(when possible)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• agree to means to attain goals</td>
<td>• implement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• transactions made between nurse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and client</td>
<td>• evaluate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• goal(s) attained, and if not, why not</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Nursing Process as Theory and Method*  
*(King 1997 Figure 5)*
Compare and Contrast Elements of Theory from Origin to Present Time

- King stated “will not change but will continue to generate theories”
  - This appears to be true and the original concepts remain unchanged but refinements have been added (see timeline)

- Links academic theory with clinical nursing

- King’s system has been successfully applied for over 50 years.

- Research continues to be done supporting the usefulness of King’s concepts, including space, power, perception, time, roles and stress
Compare and Contrast Elements of Theory from Origin to Present Time Continued

• Provided a framework to define the purpose and professionalism of nursing which was not present in the 1960s

• Theory is becoming a more important component in today’s nursing education

• New importance placed on mutual goal setting and attainment
Timeline For Development of King’s Theory

- 1961 - Began development of Conceptual System
- 1964 – Published “Nursing Theory – Problems and Prospect”
- 1968 – Further identified concepts in “A Conceptual Framework of Reference for Nursing”
- 1971 – Published book presenting complete system “Toward a Theory for Nursing”
- 1978 – Refined concepts as a presenter at Second Annual Nursing Educator Conference
- 1986 – Published book refining concepts and theory
- 1987 – 1995 – Published book chapters further refining concepts and theory
- 2001 – Addition of coping in personal system and the word “spiritual” to assumptions
- To present – Addition of learning in personal system and control in social system identified through other researchers utilizing King’s Theory
Concepts and Assumptions of Theory of Goal Attainment

Assumptions

• Goal is helping others to attain, maintain and restore health or die with dignity. (Nursing)

• Dynamic experience that requires use of resources to achieve daily goals of living (Health)

• Social, rational, sentient people who are action and time oriented and purposeful and controlling their behavior (Individuals)

• Internal and external (Largely undefined) (Environment)

• Environment and human transactions that include organizing and interpreting sensory data and memory (Perception)

• Exchanging information from one person to another (Communication)

• Goal directed communication and perception among person to person or person and environment (Interaction)

• Interactions with environment focused on achieving valued goals; goal directed behaviors (Transaction)

• Interaction of human and environment to regulate, balance and control stressors (Stress)
Analyze the situation and the phenomenon related to the works of King

King’s phenomena of interest

• Transactions and health

• “Health is the ability to function in social roles” (Fawcett, 2005)

• “Predictors of nurse behaviors, including the nurse’s education and experience” (Fawcett, 2005)

• “Patient perceptions and expectations” (Fawcett, 2005)

• “Communication and interpersonal relationships” (Fawcett, 2005)

• “Performance of activities of daily living and knowledge about health maintenance” (Fawcett, 2005)
Imogene King Bingo

The object of this game is to be able to identify the principles of Imogene King’s Theory.

- This game concept is explained in the handout provided
- The list of bingo slot terms is available on the associated handout.
Bringing a person closer to a healthy state by interactions of human beings with their environment.

Goals are met through transactions between nurse and client.
Putting it into Practice

How would we use Imogene King’s theory in practice?

– If you are involved in teaching, King’s theory is ever present in many schools across the United States. The nursing process that most of undergraduates live by is developed by King’s theory of nursing process.

– Development of care plans that are constantly changing and developing to reflect the needs and goals of the patient. St. Luke’s uses these documents during shift report to discuss the plan, implementation, and evaluation of the care we have provided.

– You can even see some of King’s ideas of mutual goal setting and attainment applied in how nurses are evaluated by their supervisors.

• See Example in Handout!
Discussion Questions

Answer 2 of the following questions (Your choice)

• Pick 2 concepts from King's theory and give examples from your nursing experience that illustrate these concepts.
• How did King define the "essence of nursing"?
• Identify the value of mutual goal setting in the nurse-patient relationship.
Summary

King’s work focuses on the continuing ability of individuals to meet their basic needs so that they may function in their socially defined roles, as well as on individuals’ interactions within three open, dynamic, interacting systems. (Fawcett, 2005)