

Nursing in Islamic thought: Reflection on application nursing metaparadigm concept: A philosophical inquiry

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ABSTRACT

Background: Metaparadigm of nursing is one of the nursing discipline challenges of the present century, which should take into consideration the diversity of different cultures and viewpoints.

Materials and Methods: The purpose of this study is to evolve the concept of “nursing” (one of the concepts in nursing metaparadigm) on the basis of the Islamic scholars’ view. In this philosophical inquiry, we sought to clarify the concept of nursing according to the ideas derived from the Islamic scholars’ view. To achieve the research objectives, Islamic texts were studied and analyzed based on the criteria of concept anatomy (definition, attributes/characteristics, and boundaries).

Results: Based on Morse’s criteria, with regard to Islamic thought, the concept of nursing in scientific literature is an immature concept. In Islamic viewpoint, human is a unique and integrated reality that implies a holistic paradigm in nursing theories. Since in Islamic thought human is described precisely and delicately, nursing concept can be delineated more clearly and can be helpful in enhancing and producing nursing clinical knowledge, nursing care, and nursing philosophy, specially clarifying holistic nursing.

Conclusion: According to the criteria of concept anatomy, nursing is caring for and fulfilling the needs of patients, and it believes that nursing has a holistic paradigm and includes all of the dimensions and aspects of human beings.

Key words: Cultural care, holistic nursing, Islam, metaparadigm, nursing

INTRODUCTION

The role of metaparadigm concepts

According to Fawcett,^[1] metaparadigm is the basis of philosophical perceptions and the worldview of nursing discipline. In the hierarchical structure of nursing knowledge, metaparadigm enjoys a valuable stand, and as a conceptual framework, it has developed more limited structures like theorization.^[2] However, it needs some requirement, such as international in scope and substance.^[1, 3]

Fawcett’s idea of the metaparadigm concepts served as an original philosophical approach to the perception and outlook on matters of relevance to the discipline that would become the framework for all nursing scholarship and serve as a point of consensus for nursing practice.^[2,3] She believed that developing knowledge within the framework of the four metaparadigm concepts would constitute the primary

challenge for contemporary nursing scholarship.^[1] Therefore, Fawcett^[1] regards nursing metaparadigm discourse as a nursing challenge in the present century and argues that nursing needs to take into consideration the diversity of viewpoint in nursing. Today, the cultural, religious, and social differences in different societies (such as Islamic population) are a considerable challenge for the healthcare systems of the US and the West. As a result, nursing needs theories that are formed based on the beliefs and cultural values of different communities.^[4,5]

The evolving context of practice knowledge

The current challenges facing nursing internationally indicate an urgent need for nurses across diverse contexts to engage in the development of core disciplinary knowledge as a means to distinguish their profession’s unique contribution from that of other disciplines and to capitalize on the full range of ideas available to the advancement of the profession.

Islam is a living religion. There are approximately 1 billion Muslims (those who follow or practice the religion of Islam) worldwide^[6] residing in 120 Islamic and non-Islamic countries. In spite of the extensiveness of the total population and their special philosophical views, very little has been published on understanding the beliefs, needs, and experiences of Muslims in health care systems

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in the western countries.^[7] Therefore, clarification of metaparadigm concepts, in the light of Islamic worldview, can appropriately pave the way for the nursing theorization in Islamic societies and the cultural caring of Muslim clients. Therefore, this study aimed to clarify and evolve the concept of nursing through the views of Islamic scholars.

Morse^[8-10] stresses that concepts used in the discipline should be mature. An immature and undeveloped concept will result in a lack of understanding of its application, and more importantly, it can lead to a misunderstanding between the researchers and clinicians.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To achieve these objectives, we conducted a philosophical inquiry. One means by which such a philosophical inquiry can be accomplished is through philosophical concept analysis.^[11] Different methods of concept analysis have been used in nursing with varying degrees of success to clarify and expand upon theoretical conceptualizations^[12] In this study, we used Morse's^[13] critical analysis of the literature as a method by which to analyze the concept of nursing. This method has been recognized as having scientific rigor in the use of intellectual reasoning to expand the core concepts in the nursing discipline.^[14]

Within this framework, there are four broad philosophical principles for assessing, determining, and evaluating the state of the science surrounding the concept.^[15]

These are as follows:

Epistemological principle: a concept matured through this principle is clearly defined and its status in the text is obvious; this principle answers this question as to whether the concept is defined clearly and well differentiated from other concepts;

Logical principle: deals with coherent integration of the concept with other concepts;

Pragmatic principle: deals with efficiency criteria and relevance to the concept in conceptualizing; and

Linguistic principle: according to this principle, the concept should be appropriate to its use in context.^[16]

Based on these principles, the literature of nursing was reviewed to assess the state of maturity of the concept of nursing based on Islamic thought. All variants of the expression "nursing based on Islamic thought" were used as key words or subject headings in several databases such as MEDLINE-CINAHL and ISI index. The literature review

showed the concept was not well-defined. According to Morse, when a concept is not well-defined, its attributions and boundaries are not clear.^[8]

Therefore, we concluded that this concept was immature.

The level of maturity determined through concept analysis indicated the need for employing an appropriate method for advancing the concept^[17] For example, because this concept was judged to be immature, we concluded the need for further research to be directed toward concept development.^[18] On the basis of this conclusion, we undertook to develop the concept using the Islamic literature as data. Concept development was subsequently done in three stages. First, following Morse *et al.*'s method^[13] the researchers began by developing analytical questions on the notion of nursing in the Islamic literature. Their inquiries were guided by the question: *How is nursing defined in Islamic thought? What are the attributes of nursing in Islamic thought? And where is the boundary of the nursing concept in Islamic thought?*

Second, to further advance the concept of nursing, they selected Islamic literature as their source of data. Islamic literature abounds in various books and other sources. Over the evolutionary chronology of Islamic thought, these texts have been subject to various reforms and have changed to a certain degree. Therefore, authors resorted to purposively selected literature such as *Tafsir-e-almizan*, which enjoys wide acceptance and validity among Muslims and has also been scrutinized by quite a large number of researchers. *Tafsir-e-almizan* is one of the most outstanding and comprehensive commentary texts on the *Quran* in this era. It interprets this holy book of Muslims all over the world through various approaches such as philosophical analysis, drawing on the wide range of verses and propositions it contains. Among the Muslims, it is considered as one of the best commentaries of the *Quran* with respect to its writing style. *Tafsir-e-almizan* has been translated into many different languages. Its commentary is rich, comprehensive, accurate, and powerful in communicating ideas of Islam into the thinking of different human traditions.^[19] For the purposes of the present study, *Tafsir-e-almizan* has therefore been considered the core axiom representing the ideas that symbolize Islamic thought.

As a final stage, on the basis of the above work, we generated a provisional theoretical definition to depict the conceptual component of the anatomy of the concept of nursing in Islamic thought. In this process, we worked out appropriate ways to articulate the concept's definition, attributes/characteristics, and boundaries. On the basis of this analysis, we compared this conceptualization of

human being according to Islamic thought with that of nursing from different nursing perspectives, especially a holistic paradigm.

FINDINGS

A clear definition and description of the characteristics of the concept facilitates applying it at an operational level.^[8] Thus, the findings of our inquiry are presented according to the criteria of the structural concept suggested by Morse.^[8]

Nursing definition

Morse believes that in the case that the concept is labeled and meaningfully defined; it will possess capabilities such as to be a reference, to be relevant and to be distinguished by others. Therefore, the following definitions were extracted for the concept of “nursing” from the Islamic literature.

A review of the Islamic literatures shows that there are a lot of sayings (Ahadith) by the Holy Prophet of Islam (PBUH), stressing the job of caring for and nursing the patients. For example, He says: A person who nurses a patient for a day and night will be raised with Ibrahim Khalil (Prophet Abraham) by God, will cross the Serat Bridge as a flash, and everybody who actually takes efforts in fulfilling the needs of a patient will get rid of his/her sins like the day he/she is born.^[20]

This holy saying of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) can imply for nursing the two meanings of patients’ care and fulfilling their needs.

Caring

Caring is considered an Islamic attribute in the Islamic thought, so that Islam emphasizes caring not only for humans but also for other creatures of the world.^[7] The concept of caring for patients originates from the perception of caring as serving God. In religious frameworks, care has a religious consequence, which is to love God and the Prophet, and this is what the human is supposed to do.^[21]

Fulfilling the needs

One of the other definitions existing in Islamic texts is that nursing means fulfilling and satisfying the needs of patients. The Holy Prophet of Islam states that “anybody who endeavors for fulfilling the needs of a patient will be granted a reward of forgiveness for all his/her sins even if the need is not fulfilled.”^[20]

Both the nursing and Islamic literatures indicate that serving patients, caring for them, and fulfilling their needs have long played an important role in nursing. It has been shown that early in Islamic history and through all wars,

Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) insisted on caring for the wounded.^[22]

Characteristics/attributes of nursing in Islamic thought

Morse^[8] considers determining the characteristics/attributes, criteria, properties, and defining features of the concept as the basis for its discrimination and usage in a specified field^[8] Therefore, to attain these goals, the Islamic texts were reviewed. It was found that Islamic scholars consider nursing to have the following attributes and features:

Holiness and to be corresponding to worship

From the viewpoint of Islamic scholars, nursing is a holy job and in parallel with the supreme kinds of worship. Islamic literatures, sayings (A hadith), and history are a good evidence for this fact.

- a. To engage in nursing in the mosques. Early in the Islamic history, a mosque was a base for conducting the most important affairs of the society and everything performed over there was a kind of worship. Therefore, the Prophet’s method in caring for the wounded in the mosques is an evidence for this fact.^[23]
- b. The other evidence is that all prophets including Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and the innocent Imams of Shiite and other eminent individuals in Islam cared for and served as nurses to the patients and those injured.^[24]
- c. The nurse takes care of a creature that is a masterpiece and a vicegerent of God on the Earth and conducts this especially when he/she is distressed. In Islamic thought, a human’s value and position promote before God and he/she is under His special favors when he/she is in a situation of distress like the state of being a patient.^[25]

Generosity and altruism

From the viewpoint of Islamic scholars, nursing the injured and patients is a kind of generosity and altruism. Among the moral habits/virtues, the virtues of generosity and altruism are superior to the virtue of justice because a fair individual does not violate others’ rights, but a person who is generous and altruist not only does not violate others’ rights but also grants his/her own property and earnings to others.

Responsibility and social commitment

In the school of Islam, “bounty” is advised and emphasized and services such as medicine, “nursing,” establishing medical institutes, and the like are among this kind of attributes.^[26]

The virtue of benevolence

Nursing has sympathy, compassion, and helping others inherently. Therefore, it is under a divine love. According

to the Holy Quran, nursing is among the attributes of the benevolent and God loves those who are attributed to that.

From the viewpoint of Islamic scholars, “human” is a reality possessing the highest position and enjoys a divine nature (Quran, Araf, verse 172) with a heavenly element called God’s spirit (Quran, sejde, verse 9) placed into his/her material body.^[27] It is a united creature, so that the unity of these two constructs (soul and body) is a representation of the features of one unit in two constructs like the two sides of a coin.^[28] The immaterial construct of human is represented in its cognitive/perceptual, emotional,^[26] social, and spiritual dimensions.^[29] Therefore, in this section, in order to expose a more developed concept of nursing, nursing is presented from different human dimensions in the light of Islamic scholars’ views.

Nursing in the bio-dimension of human

In the Islamic scholars’ view, the bio-dimension of human is one of the most fundamental aspects of human being, and they believe that it is in a close relationship with the immaterial construct. Islam puts a high value and importance on the accuracy and the health of both of them. Consequently, there are a lot of themes and instructions in this regard in the Islamic Fiqh (jurisprudence) and Tradition (Sonnat).^[30] In the Islamic thought, the body health plays an important role in the evolution of human in all dimensions, especially in the immaterial aspect. Islam does not regard human body to be worthless and considers its nature and health as the important factors influencing the growth of other dimensions of human.

Nursing in cognitive/perceptual dimension of human

One of the most fundamental dimensions of human being is the cognitive/perceptual dimension. It is of high importance in Islam and there are different aspects attributed to that. These aspects include: intellectual ability, thinking, reasoning and knowledge, and cognition (preventive and intuitive), which help human to achieve the world’s facts with no resort to mental conceptions.^[29,31]

Islamic sayings (Ahadith) and quotes (Ravayat) are an indicator of the fact that human has abilities, which can be the basis of his activities in his plans and in taking care of his body. For example:

- a. A patient can get the necessary training in taking care of himself/herself and fulfilling his/her personal needs^[28] because he/she has the abilities of learning, discriminating, and perceiving things.
- b. Since the patient possesses the criteria for discriminating the wrong from the right,^[32] he/she will be able to make decisions on taking medical measures and on the caring

of himself/herself.

- c. As they do not obey the matters irrationally and they are entitled to be informed,^[33] patients can have a rational interaction with nurses on their care plans.
- d. Because human is a united composite,^[34] from cognitive/perceptual dimension, care can influence the health and the job of considering other dimensions. An Islamic and holistic nurse knows that social and emotional dimensions are greatly influenced by the intellectual dimension of human.

Nursing in emotional dimension

In Islamic scholars’ thought, emotional dimensions such as affection and sympathy toward others, communication and mutual understanding, helping the needy and social emotions are all among the different representations and aspects of human nature. As a result, patients are in need of spiritual and emotional support.^[35] Consideration of the emotional needs is among the basic needs of hospitalized patients.^[36] In this viewpoint, according to the sayings (Ahadith) and the tradition (Sonnat) of the Prophet of Islam (PBUH), paying attention to emotional care is so important that is highly emphasized. He emphasizes the kindness, compassion, and showing good behavior in the interactions and relations with the patients and the poor. He also states that whenever you visit a patient, you should shake hands with him, put your hand on his forehead, and ask him about his well-being. Another important matter that is highly emphasized is to be promising for the patient. He says that whenever you visit a patient, try to reduce his sorrow about death time and make him hopeful toward the future.^[20] This will be consoling for his spirit and soul. These statements show the importance of consideration of the emotional dimension of the patient in Islamic thought.

Nursing in social dimension

From the viewpoint of Islamic scholars, “the social dimension” of personality is of high importance because the humanity of human is dependent on his social dimension to a great extent. All of human’s abilities such as perception, thinking power, and the way he shows and controls his emotions are influenced by his social life.^[37]

Tabatabaei suggests the feature of social living of human originates from different factors such as fulfilling the needs like reproduction, and supplying the life requirements of the society such as food, etc. that need some preparations. That is, it is impossible to perform works and activities without task assignment and without a plan for fulfilling the needs within a system of rules and regulations.^[38] This fact is represented in Islam’s emphasis on the establishment of mosques, the existence of Masjid-ol-Haram, Hajj

(pilgrimage), and other Islamic rituals. All of these are programs for creating special relations among humans. Islam has planned obligations (Vajebat) and illegal deeds (Moharamat) in such a way that through them, every single Muslim will be in a purposeful relationship with others and, in general, a relevant system with extensive and organized relations will be formed.

In Islamic scholars' thought, human (here patient) is a creature that is in a critical need of social relations. However, a hospitalized patient is in a situation where he/she is apart from a living environment and needs the nurse's consideration of his/her social dimension.^[36] A holistic nurse knows that features such as altruism, compassion, sympathy, and kindness, along with an appropriate relationship are the fundamental principles in the social interaction. These features fulfill not only the emotional needs but the social needs as well. A holistic nurse behaves on the basis of Islamic thought in planning and caring and in his/her relation to the patient and other members of the treatment team, so that the patient's spiritual and social needs will be fulfilled and he/she will not be annoyed by the feeling of loneliness.

Spiritual care

In Islamic scholars' thought, the spiritual dimension is the most important part of human being^[39] because it is impossible for humans to have a healthy life and to serve the humanity and the civilization without spirituality (idea, desire, and faith).^[40] Spiritual needs get more apparent in the disease period. Usually nurses take care of individuals (patients) of different religions and cultures, and since it is impossible to be completely acquainted with all religions and their rules, it is suggested that their spiritual needs should be assessed and the necessary measures are taken to fulfill those needs. This fact can directly influence the patients' responses to disease, grief, exercising, self-care, nutrition, etc. This will result in a better relationship between the nurse and the patient.^[41] From the viewpoint of Islamic scholars, a nurse has the duty of not only serving all humans regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, and other material criteria, but also considering the spiritual needs of the patients and trying to fulfill them. In this view, one of the most important points that a holistic nurse needs to know about the spiritual needs of patients is that "Human is in a perpetual need of being related to God."^[29] Therefore, patients need one who is needless, someone they can rely on, demand and count on for support. Furthermore, holistic nurses should pay more attention to these needs in order to give peace and meaning to the patients' lives.

DISCUSSION

According to our findings, in the Islamic scholars' view, human has biological, cognitive/perceptual, emotional,

social, and spiritual dimensions that are presented in detail in this study. This is an indicator of the consideration of holistic nursing in Islam. Nursing actually has a holistic nature and, in professional nursing, concepts such as human as a whole, relations among body, mind, and spirit, and socio-cultural relations in contextual situations are under consideration.^[42]

Today, the holistic view is used frequently in nursing. In order to support the human's health and being, and apart from its stereotyping aspects in instruction and management, in nursing, it is used to show nurses' concentration on the health, as well as on patients' holistic nature in relation with the environment, and with regard to his/her multi-dimensional nature including his biological, psychological, and sociological aspects.^[43]

Today, there are many articles on the appreciation of a holistic approach to nursing. This philosophical concept is revolving the professional nursing. Holistic views and their intellectual, scientific, and philosophical revolutions indicate that human has traditionally been aware of his multi-dimensionality and considered the soul and the body, the two important factors influencing his activities. Application of a lot of ancient treatments in different ancient civilizations, such as therapies, summoning the soul (Ehzarearvah), hypnotherapy,^[44] and some other medical treatments confirms this claim that numerous criticisms of Cartesian dualism in nursing literature are also in need of a holistic viewpoint in nursing.^[45]

Islamic holistic nursing

1. In Islamic scholars' view, human consists of two constructs, material and immaterial (body and soul).^[46] This fact indicates that from the viewpoint of Islamic scholars, nursing and taking care of patients can include consideration of both material and immaterial constructs. In this view, paying attention to the material aspect of human will pave the way for the evolution of his soul aspect. Moreover, in Islamic thought, besides the material dimension, a human has an immaterial construct called spirit (divine soul), which forms his noble dimension. This construct has a divine nature and a tendency to God.^[46] Therefore, paying attention to the spiritual aspect of human is a holy job given the fact that it is a divine spirit.
2. In Islamic scholars' view, human has different elements that create a more powerful and greater entity by connecting to each other, a united composite called human in which body and soul are united and integrate into the world system to form a whole.^[38] Islam believes in the unity of human as a merged construct consisting of body and soul.^[7] It means that in Islamic thought, nursing and caring of the patient not only include both material

and immaterial constructs, but also they are carried out in an integrated manner. That is, when giving physical care, other dimensions and their influence on each other should also be considered in the process of treatment and caring. In Islamic thought, there is a close relationship between soul and body and a deficiency in one will result in the deficiency in the other. That is, if the body is not powerful and healthy, the soul, wisdom, and thought cannot promote and advance in an appropriate manner.

3. In Islamic scholars' view, early in his creation, a human has talent and abilities inherent in its immaterial (soul) construct on the basis of which he/she can grow and evolve in the cognitive/perceptual, emotional, social, and spiritual sub-dimensions. This fact shows that nursing and taking care of the patient not only is based on the unity of both material and immaterial constructs, but also all material and immaterial sub-dimensions should be taken into consideration.

Based on the data findings, and according to the features that religious teachings outline for human, a Muslim nurse as a holistic nurse considers the following principles in his/her contact with the patients (humans) and he/she is completely aware that he/she is taking care of a creature possessing the following features:

- a. Human is endowed with the highest values and reverence, and is created to evolve and get the position of vicegerent of God on the Earth. He has control on the nature, Earth, and heavens, so that all creatures are under his capture. He is able to do things that are beyond the requirement of wisdom or having material cause or causal things in this world.^[27]

Accepting such an idea will make the nurse a good sample of the verse 32 of Soureh Ma'ede in the Quran: "*Anybody who saves one's life is regarded as the one who saves the lives of all human beings.*"

- b. Another feature of a human in Islamic thought is that human is an eternal creature. Human is not irrelevant to the world's creator and his creation is purposeful.^[29] In this viewpoint, human is a creature being related to God in a way that He guides him toward the ultimate destination that he has been created and evolved for.

The Holy Quran clearly shows that human's personality does not merely consist of body. Therefore, human is not gone by the death of the body, but the entire personality of human is dependent on something else, which remains alive after the body's death.^[28] Therefore, a faithful nurse who is also aware of this feature in humans will take measures to turn patients' attention to this fact in order to create the feelings of serenity and mental security

and increase their level of tolerance toward disease and even death.

- c. In Islamic scholars' view, human has such a talent that makes him/her capable of ascending to the highest levels of perfection, where other creatures of the world can never reach.^[47] Perfectionism is a noble and independent tendency, which is natural and inherent in human, and everybody possesses the talent and potential to have it. Of course, the degree of humanity and perfection in human depends on how much this talent is actualized and is in contrast to other creatures.^[47] It can be acquired by human's will and desire along with his challenges with obstructions. Therefore, a holistic nurse aware of the purposefulness of nursing in fulfilling patients' needs will do his/her best in removing the obstacles and bringing convenience to the patients.

In Islamic thought, human's perfection is assessed by his closeness to God. Motahari states: "The way the school of Islam suggests for perfection is to adjust and purify the self that is to pay attention to God. The more a person turns his attention from others to God, and the more he disconnects himself from outside, the closer he will be to the position of perfection."^[48]

Therefore, a holistic nurse by accepting this strong Islamic presupposition and by providing patients with care in soul dimension will enjoy his/her job in this regard.

- d. One of the other features and attributes of a holistic nurse is that based on religious views, he/she believes that human is a selector creature and, in Islamic thought, this is one of the valuable criteria that makes human distinguished from animals. Human is created as a selective creature possessing the will power by which he/she is able to select and make decisions in dilemmas. God says in the Quran: "We actually have shown the way (right and wrong) for human. Now it is up to him/her whether to accept the right way and appreciates God for this grace or misuse that grace."

The way toward which God guides human is voluntary, and appreciation or misuse of this guidance takes place in the light of human's will power. Everybody can resort to each of the two and there is no obligation on that.^[29] Believing this fact and accepting it as an Islamic assumption in nursing implies that a nurse should put value on the patients' views, selections, and decisions in his/her healthcare practice and make them participate in the selection of affairs, which are influential in his/her treatment. The nurse should also get the patient's consent with every nursing measure.

- e. Among the features that Islamic scholars consider for human and can be the basis of holistic nursing is that human is an accountable creature.

Motahari stated that human enjoys a special nobility and reverence among other creatures and has a special responsibility and mission.^[40] It means that he is responsible for his evolution and nurture and adjusting his society. In nursing, it means that patients can be responsible for their own health based on their abilities and they should enjoy the right of “independence in decision making” when making decisions on matters related to their treatment and health.

Independence in making decisions is a concept and principle, which is suggested in nursing as a moral value. Of course, the ability of making decisions requires nurses to give necessary and adequate information to patients and their families, based on their preference. Therefore, independence in decision making means that the nurse provides the patients with adequate information on disease diagnosis, treatment, and preventive measures, so that it will be possible for them to make appropriate decisions.^[49]

CONCLUSION

In most clinical theories and models, based on the consideration of human nature, the nursing metaparadigm concepts are defined as the concept.^[2,50] Therefore, given the fact that in Islamic thought, human is regarded as a comprehensive whole, here nursing is defined in the holistic framework.

Moreover, the comparison of the viewpoints of Islamic scholars with those of the western scientists with regard to holistic nursing shows that they both believe that caring is the axiom of nursing. In addition, in both viewpoints, there is a kind of similarity in presenting services to the fellowmen. However, in Islamic thought, because of human’s definition, which is based on religious and divine philosophy, caring is regarded not only as a responsibility and social commitment but also as a holy and altruistic job, benevolence, and among the highest forms of worship. Because it is the caring of a creature that is a reality in a supreme position, which enjoys a divine nature, a heavenly element beautified with God’s soul. He is the vicegerent of God on the Earth and is endowed a high value and reverence. These statements indicate the importance of Islam’s humanistic approach toward human in the framework of believing in the reverence for human. Therefore, in this viewpoint, all patients from different genders, ethnicities, and cultural, social, and economic backgrounds are entitled to receive

care along with altruism, empathy, and reverence. In general, in Islamic nursing, the following are taken into consideration:

- Concentration on human values
- Concentration on the unity of human
- Human as an independent creature
- Human as a responsible creature
- Caring and nursing are based on well-being improvement and healing
- Concentration on all domains of nursing care and the relationship among different dimensions of human (bio-cognitive–emotional–social–spiritual dimensions)
- The belief that while being needy, human is powerful and capable of reaching the highest levels of perfection
- Fulfilling human’s needs while observing his/her self-esteem
- Paying attention to not only the material world of human but also his/her soul and spirituality dimensions
- Nursing of human includes all stages of health, disease, and death

The current challenges facing nursing internationally indicate an urgent need for nurses across diverse contexts to engage in the development of core disciplinary knowledge as a means to distinguish their profession’s unique contribution from that of other disciplines and to capitalize on the full range of ideas available to the advancement of the profession. Within this context, metaparadigm knowledge such as better understanding of the diverse conceptualizations of nursing is needed in order to ensure that nurses across all contexts can provide optimal care.^[5]

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