

Dying to Care.

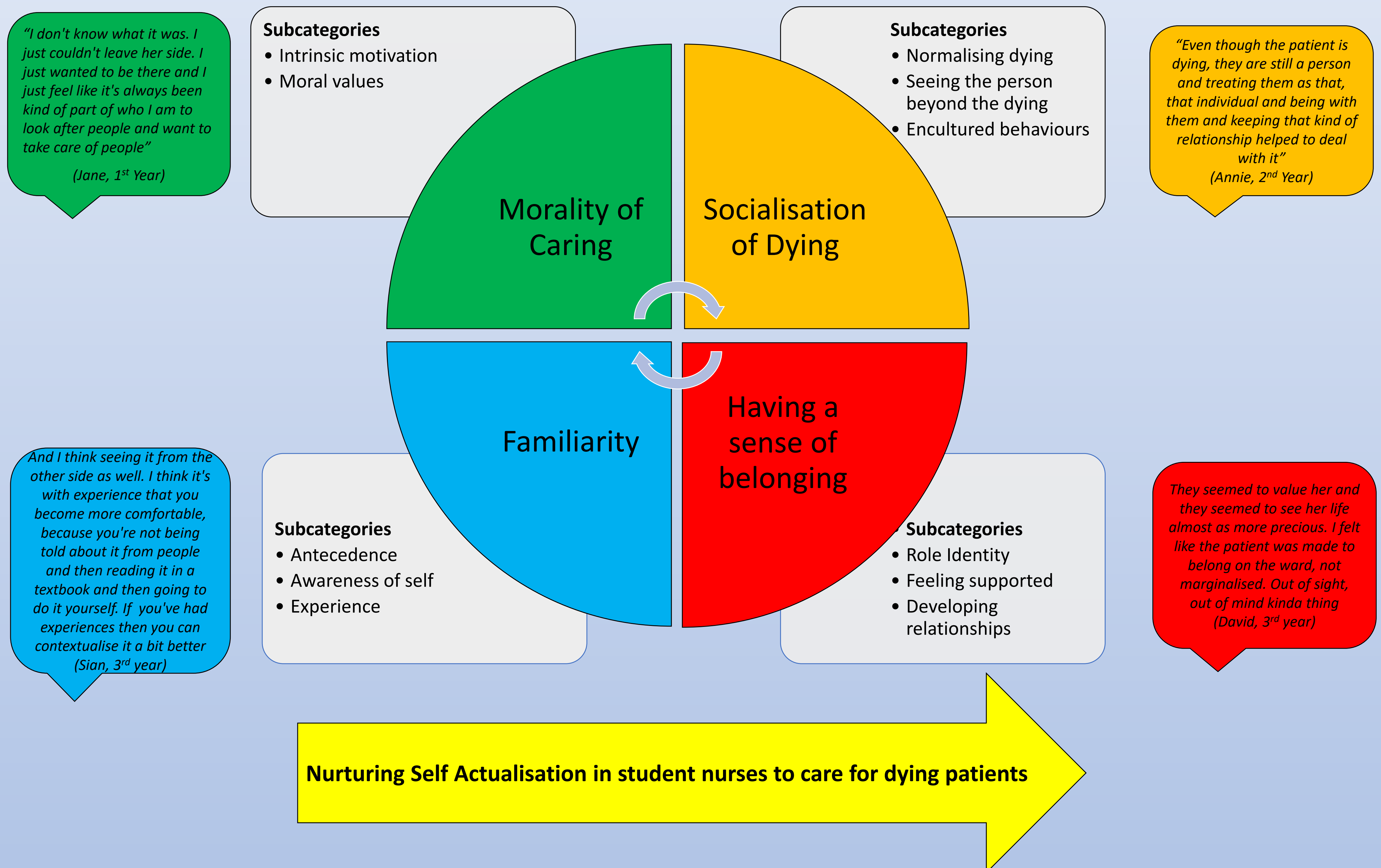
A constructivist grounded theory study identifying what factors prepare student nurses to care for dying patients.

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Emerging Categories & Core Category



Aim

To explore factors which prepare student nurses to care for dying patients.

Research Objectives

- Identify how current care of the dying education prepares student nurses to care for dying patients
- Explore what socio-cultural factors prepare student nurses to care for dying patients
- Gain an understanding of individual experiences of exposure to death and dying prior to commencing their nurse training
- Explore their individual experiences of caring for dying patients within clinical practice
- Develop an emerging theory to understand student nurses' perceptions and the impact that this has on the care delivered to dying patients

Background:

With an ageing population, and an increasing incidence of long-term conditions, of which some cancers fit into this category as well as dementia, there will be a growing emphasis on end-of-life care provision (National Palliative & End of Life Care partnership, 2015). Most patients receiving palliative care takes place within patients own homes, care homes and acute hospital wards (Department of Health, 2008; Virdun et al, 2015). Regardless of the environment, student nurses are on the front line of delivering this care.

For the purpose of this study, the term dying, refers to 'The hours or days preceding imminent death during which time the patient's physiological functions wane.' (Hui et al, 2014)

Methodology and Methods:

A constructivist grounded theory (Charmaz, 2014, 2006) approach was utilised, as it allowed the researcher to explore complex and nuanced phenomena from the experiences of student nurses caring for dying patients. Influenced by the theoretical perspectives of symbolic interactionism (Blumer, 1969) and Social Constructionism (Berger and Luckman, 1966), students enrolled on an undergraduate nursing degree programme were approached to participate in the study. Using semi structured face to face and telephone interviews (due to Covid restrictions), and theoretical sampling, data was collected from eighteen interviews. Data analysis utilised initial, focused, and advanced coding techniques, supported by constant comparative analysis



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References

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