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A metaphor analysis on students' perceptions of elderly living in nursing home

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Aim

It is aimed to evaluate the perceptions of nursing and midwifery students about the elderly living in nursing homes by metaphor analysis.

Methods

The sample of the study consisted of 128 nursing and midwifery students. The students were asked to create a metaphor by giving the sentence "A person living in a nursing home is like because ...". Content analysis was used to obtain sub-themes and main themes from metaphors.

Results

Of the students participating in the research, 83.6% were women and 89.8% were nursing students. As a result of the metaphor analysis, 5 main themes and 13 sub-themes were obtained. Main theme 1: Needing help in meeting their needs (sub-themes: need for care and need for love).

Main theme 2: Emotional burden of a life away from loved ones (sub-themes: loneliness, abandonment, and helplessness).

Main theme 3: Burnout at the end of the road (sub-themes: ending, lost, useless, and stagnant).

Main theme 4: Reconnecting to life (sub-themes: friendship and beginning).

Main theme 5: Post-traumatic growth (sub-themes: strong and experienced).

Conclusion

The most used metaphors by the students were loneliness and the need for care. Students' metaphors for the elderly living in nursing homes are generally based on negativity. This is a cultural phenomenon. International student exchanges and greater interaction with nursing home residents can change students' perspectives on nursing homes.

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