

Thesis Title Ethical Dilemmas and Resolutions in Clinical Practice Encountered by Nursing Students in Health Polytechnic Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This descriptive research aimed to study ethical dilemmas and resolutions in clinical practice encountered by nursing students in Health Polytechnic Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia. The subjects, 225 third-year nursing students, were recruited by proportionate random sampling from five Diploma III Nursing Programs including Semarang, Magelang, Purwokerto, Pekalongan, and Blora.

The self-report questionnaires consisted of: (1) the Personal Data Questionnaire (PDQ), (2) the Ethics Teaching and Learning Questionnaire (ETLQ), (3) the Ethical Dilemmas Questionnaire (EDQ), and (4) the Resolutions of Ethical Dilemmas Questionnaire (REDQ). Five experts in nursing ethics examined the validity of questionnaires. The reliability of the questionnaires was determined using Cronbach's alpha coefficient. The alpha coefficient of the Ethical Dilemmas Questionnaire (EDQ) was .89 for the frequency of ethical dilemmas, and .95 for the level of disturbance of

ethical dilemmas. The alpha coefficient of the Resolutions of Ethical Dilemmas Questionnaire (REDQ) was .68.

The results of this study revealed that all ethical dilemmas were at a moderate frequency and the top three frequencies of ethical dilemmas were as follows: (1) advocating for patients vs. lacking authority, (2) values conflicts in professional roles, (3) professional obligations vs. protecting self from harm. Moreover, all ethical dilemmas were at a moderate level of disturbance and the top three levels of disturbance of ethical dilemmas were as follows: (1) advocating for patients vs. lacking authority, (2) professional obligations vs. protecting self from harm, and (3) truth telling vs. withholding the truth. For resolutions of ethical dilemmas, only one strategy was at a high frequency regarding discussing and consulting with others with the mean score of 2.69. The other resolutions were at a moderate frequency, which included using emotional coping and taking moral actions. The mean scores were 2.53 and 2.52 respectively.

The results of this study can be used as baseline information for preparing nursing students to be aware of ethical dilemmas and to active participate in resolving ethical dilemmas in clinical practice.