

Perceptions and experiences of nursing students about spirituality during the educational process: a meta-synthesis

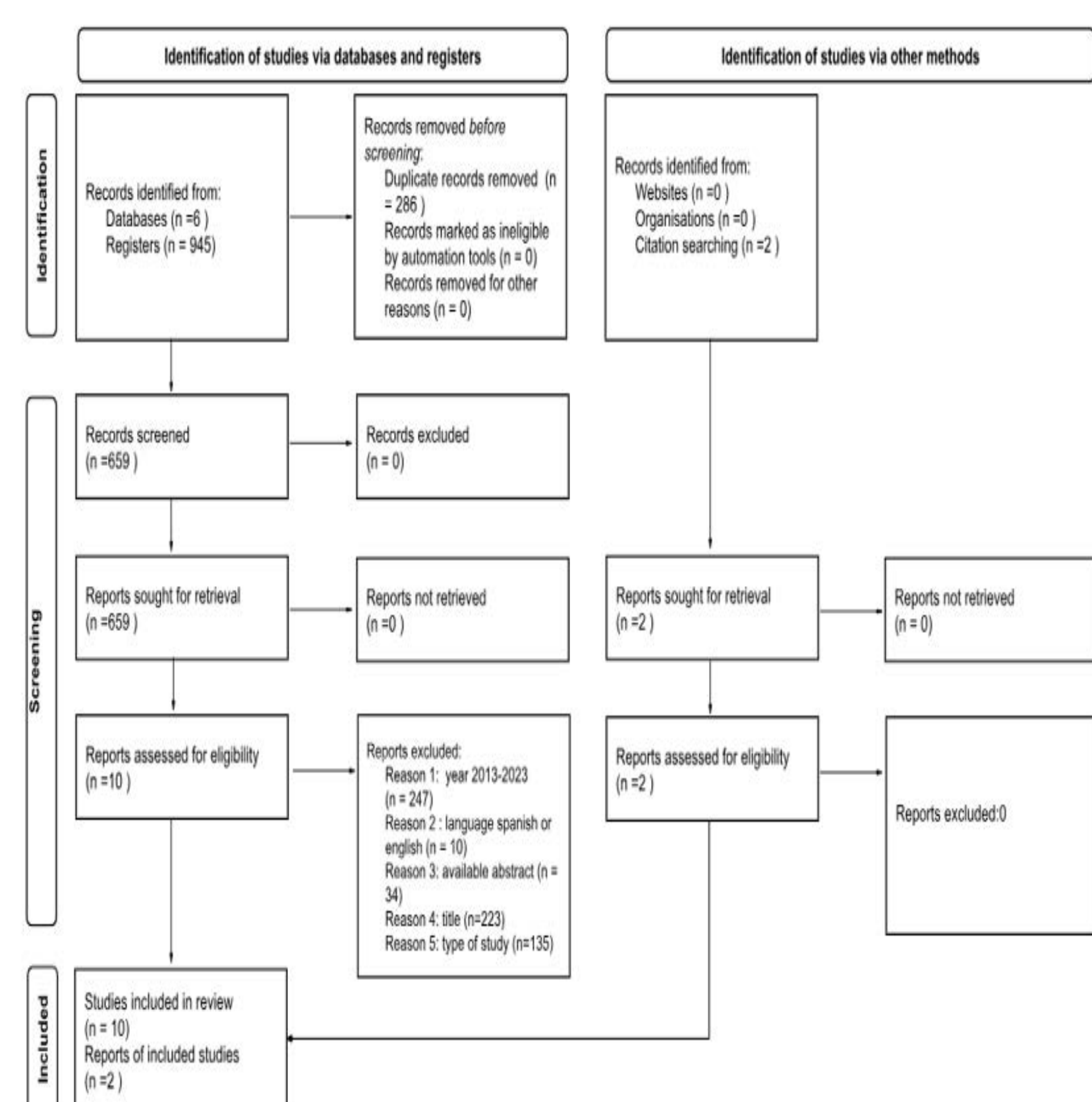
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Background

In recent years, is increasing the importance of teaching spiritual care in nursing students. This review and meta-synthesis aims to interpret and synthesize the findings of qualitative evidence to understand the process of acquiring spiritual competencies of nursing students

Methods

Figure 1. PRISMA diagram



Phase 1. Literature Review

Rigorous literature search according to the PRISMA method (Page et al., 2021) Studies from Pubmed, CINAHL, Cuiden Plus, PsycINFO, Cochrane and Web of Science were included. After PRISMA flow diagram (n=12) studies were included.

Phase 2. Quality Criteria

Review of the methodological quality of the selected articles using the Consolidated criteria for Reporting Qualitative Research tool (Tong et al., 2007) Finally, (n=11) studies were included.

Phase 3. Analysis of Results

Extraction and analysis of the results of the articles included in the review according to the methodology described by the authors Sandelowski and Barroso (Ludvigsen et al., 2016; Sandelowski, 2006)

Results

The years of publication of the studies ranged from 2015 to 2022. The studies were conducted in the USA (n = 1), Australia (n = 1), South Africa (n = 1), Norway (n = 2), Colombia (n = 1), Korea (n = 1), Chile (n = 1), Brazil (n = 1), the United Kingdom (n = 1), and the Netherlands (n = 1). The total number of nursing students who participated in the studies included in this meta-synthesis was 686 students.

| SUBCATEGORIES | CATEGORIES | META-THEME |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meanings • Experiences • Perceptions | Conception and definition of the term spirituality | <p>The promotion of training for a deeper understanding and more effective practice of spiritual care in the field of nursing is necessary to foster a holistic, quality, patient-centred approach.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrapersonal • Interpersonal • Transpersonal | Dimensions of spirituality | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources • Limitations • Holistic care | Acquisition of Spiritual Competencies | |

Conclusion

Nursing students perceive a need for introspection and enhancement of self-concept and self-awareness regarding the intrapersonal dimension before addressing it in patients. Currently, their approach to spirituality and its care is based on personal experiences, cultures, and religions, rather than clinical and health-related training, which should be a key objective. Nursing students consider the acquisition of spiritual competencies essential for providing holistic care and explicitly request both undergraduate and ongoing interdisciplinary training.

References

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- 2Ross L, McSherry W, Giske T, van Leeuwen R, Schep-Akkerman A, Koslander T, et al. Nursing and midwifery students' perceptions of spirituality, spiritual care, and spiritual care competency: A prospective, longitudinal, correlational European study. *Nurse Educ Today*. 2018;67:64-71.
- 3Rykkje, L., Søvik, M. B., Ross, L., McSherry, W., Cone, P., & Giske, T. (2022). Educational interventions and strategies for spiritual care in nursing and healthcare students and staff: A scoping review. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 31(11-12), 1440-1464.