

SPECIAL PAPER

Concept Analysis: The Clarification of Body Adornment

Colleen Maykut, RN, BScN, MN, DNP

MacEwan University - Baccalaureate Nursing Program, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Correspondence: Colleen Maykut, MacEwan University - Baccalaureate Nursing Program
9-507G, 10700-104 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 4S2 Email: maykutc@macewan.ca

Abstract

Aim. The aim of this paper is to clarify the concept of body adornment informed by Roach's (2002) caring theory, specifically the attribute of comportment.

Background. Caring is regarded as the essence of nursing. A caring demeanour is realised through adherence of professional dress which demonstrates respect for the dignity of a person as a human being (Roach, 2002). Implications of personal body adornment practices have not been considered within the context of nursing.

Data Sources. The key words "body adornment", "body piercing" and "body tattooing" were utilised to retrieve peer-reviewed journals between the years of 1990 and 2010. This resulted in 133 articles from the fields of dentistry, medicine, nursing, and psychology all of which were reviewed to facilitate a thorough appreciation and understanding of this phenomenon.

Results. Body adornment is a statement of "*Who I Am as an Individual*" with implications for "*Who I Am as a Professional*". Clear antecedents, defining attributes, and consequences facilitate our awareness of the complexity of this phenomenon.

Conclusion. Clarification of body adornment, may allow for an opportunity to understand contextual influences of body adornment, which may further influence how we care for ourselves as professionals, via the caring attribute of comportment.

Keywords: body adornment, caring, comportment, concept analysis, nurse-patient relationships