ABSTRACT

Previous studies showed that immigrants do have specific health desires. Language barriers and a feeling of inequality compared to the majority of people emerged from the material. The health care should be developed to be more sensitive towards immigrant patients.

The theoretical perspective for this study proceeded from the ontological and epistemological premises that are typical and specific for caring science. They were formed within the department of Caring Science at the University of Åbo Akademi. Hermeneutics inspired by the philosophy of Gadamer has influenced the whole process of the study. The most important ontological major assumption is “Caring communion forms the context of meaning of caring and derives its origin from the ethos of love, responsibility, and sacrifice, namely caritative ethics”.

The aim of this study was to immerse the knowledge of the foreign student’s health care desires, from a caring science perspective. Hopefully this will also improve the quality of care within the student health care. The research questions in this study are: 1. What does a caring relationship mean for a foreign student? 2. How does a caring relationship with a foreign student form?

The following methods were used: semi structured interviews with 9 foreign students from a vocational university, content analysis and hermeneutical interpretation. The analysis resulted in six themes and then they were condensed into three major themes. Because of the hermeneutical interpretation the authors own previous knowledge of the subject has been taken into consideration. One can say that a synthesis of the material has been reached when the horizons of knowledge connect between both parties concerned. Finally the results were portrayed as a figure.

The results show that the caritative nurse has the ability to invite the patient to a caring environment. It is only in the caring environment that the foreign student dares to express his health desires. The nurse should take into consideration the foreign student’s feelings of loneliness, needs of guidance, language, suffering caused by illness and economic problems. An alleviation of suffering occurs when the body, soul and spirit of the patient are touched by the nurse. The nurse stands before an ethical demand when she meets patients from other cultures than her own. The vocation of the profession may lead the nurse to do the true, good and beautiful. This means that the nurse should reserve enough time for the patient, invite the patient to a caring relationship and take into consideration the patient’s specific desires.