

## **Professional dignity for Italian undergraduates**

The concept of professional respect, as a self-regarding and indistinctly defined concept for nurses, which does not have a clear definition in the literature, was explored (Stievano et al, 2012). This research aimed to create a tentative framework and analyze the phenomenon under different points of view.

Therefore, a metasynthesis of nursing professional dignity described in the literature, based on the guidelines by Noblit and Hare (1988) was done. The selection of literature was conducted on stages based on titles (n=2595), abstracts (n=70), and full-texts (n=15) according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Findings from metasynthesis revealed a definition of nursing professional dignity, which was based on two main macro-dimensions constituting this multidimensional construct: characteristics of the human beings and workplace elements. The two macro-dimensions and the seven microdimensions were defined as follows: intrinsic human dignity, subjective perception of one's own dignity, the professional identity of nurses and their ethical professional values for characteristics of the human beings and inter- and intra-professional relationships, communications with patients and their significant others and the organizational characteristics of work environments for workplace elements.

The capacity of the students to consider reflectively on the dimensions of professional dignity could strengthen their own capability to feel as professionals and build their personal and professional identity, including their professional respect and ethical values.

### ***References:***

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