

An Exploration of the Extent of Inclusion of Spirituality and Spiritual Care Concepts in Core Undergraduate Nursing Textbooks



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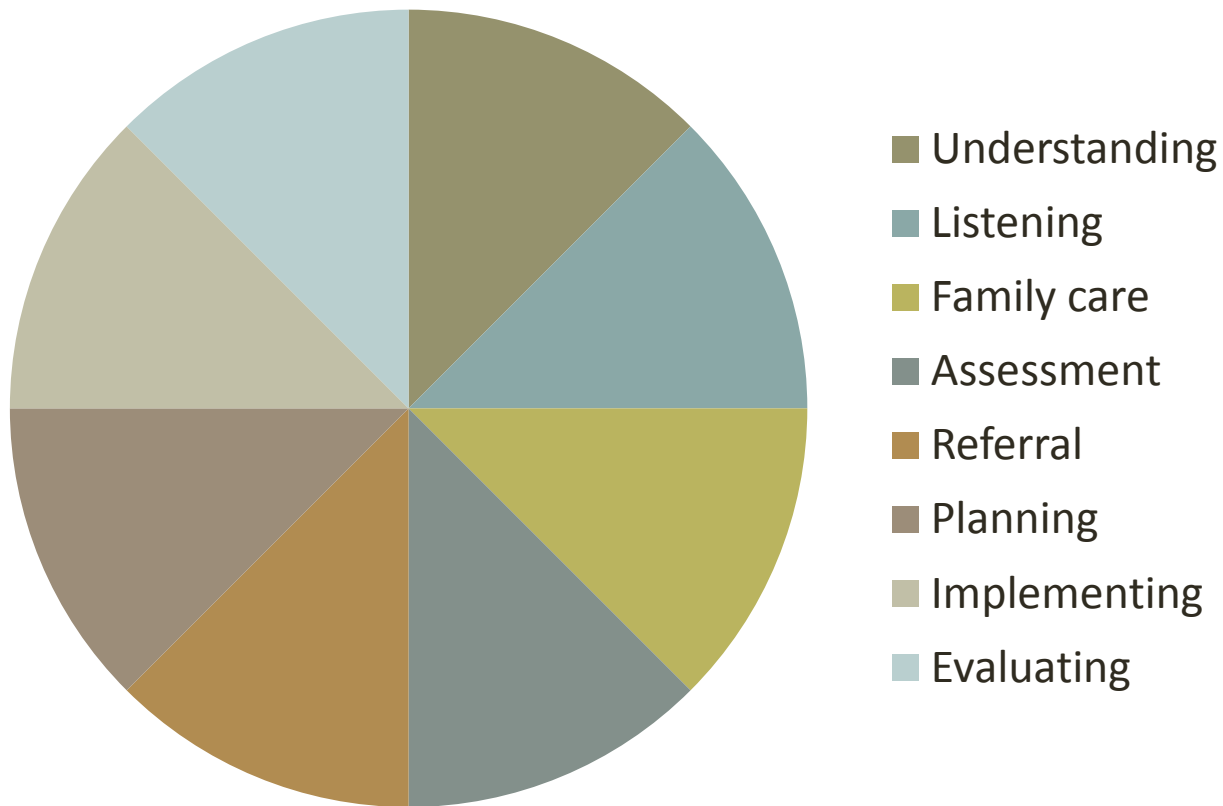
Project Team

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- Ms. Maryanne Murphy,
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- Mr Greg Sheaf , Nursing
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- *Trinity College, Dublin.*



Providing Spiritual Care

Dimensions of spiritual Care



Spirituality in Nursing

- Traditionally based in religions
- More recent times linking with non religious ideas, nature and humanism.
- Lack of conceptual clarity around definition – only agreed definition is dictionary term.
- Means an absence of clear direction about what to teach undergraduate nurses and roles to undertake including spiritual assessment.

Concept Analysis (Sessanna et al 2007).

- 4 main themes
 1. A religious system of beliefs and value
 2. That which gives life meaning, purpose and connection with others
 3. A non religious system of beliefs and values
 4. As a metaphysical or transcendental phenomena

Spirituality in Nursing

- Koenig (2013) Medline Search using keywords
- **1902- 1981** – 3,369 articles found
- **2006- 2011** – 5,155 articles found
- What does this increased research mean for nursing practice?
- Recent research/ literature has not gone through a rigorous analysis of used definitions and there is little measurements of outcomes, which suggests a lack of critique in this area (Reinart and Koenig 2013).

Providing spiritual care

- While there is agreement that nurses should have guidance to provide spiritual care, it is unclear what specific curricula content prepares the nurse for this important role or how core nursing textbooks contribute to this agenda (Pesut 2008).



Aims of the Study

- The study aims to examine whether or not core undergraduate nursing textbooks include spirituality or spiritual care content.
- It also aims to examine whether or not core nursing textbooks define spirituality or spiritual care or the core elements of spirituality.
- A final aim is to examine the extent to which core nursing textbooks advocate spiritual assessment by nurses.

Data Collection

- Five hundred and nineteen books were sampled from the Nursing and Midwifery Core Collection list (UK) (Tomlinsons 2010) representing 89% of the total collection (n=580).
- A survey, the Spirituality Textbook Analysis Tool (STAT) was used to collect data.

4. State category number (from Nursing Collection):

5. Indicate the frequency with which the following related search terms are included in the index:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Spirituality | 1. Once | 2. 3-5 occasions | 3. 4-10 occasions | 4. More than 10 occasions |
| 2. Spirit | 1. Once | 2. 3-5 occasions | 3. 4-10 occasions | 4. More than 10 occasions |
| 3. Religion | 1. Once | 2. 3-5 occasions | 3. 4-10 occasions | 4. More than 10 occasions |
| 4. Transcendence | 1. Once | 2. 3-5 occasions | 3. 4-10 occasions | 4. More than 10 occasions |
| 5. God | 1. Once | 2. 3-5 occasions | 3. 4-10 occasions | 4. More than 10 occasions |
| 6. Sacred | 1. Once | 2. 3-5 occasions | 3. 4-10 occasions | 4. More than 10 occasions |
| 7. Meaning | 1. Once | 2. 3-5 occasions | 3. 4-10 occasions | 4. More than 10 occasions |
| 8. Religious belief/s | 1. Once | 2. 3-5 occasions | 3. 4-10 occasions | 4. More than 10 occasions |

The Study

- A 23-item survey was devised by the research team, comprised of five University Staff including one nursing subject librarian, during a series of team meetings.
- This specifically designed data collection tool, the Spirituality Textbook Analysis Tool (STAT),
- Data analysed using SPSS for descriptive and inferential statistics.



Validity/ Reliability

- Content Validity – reviewed by 8 experts
- Asked to rate relevance
- Scored via survey on survey monkey ©
- Depending on score – left in or removed

- Pre and Post test to test reliability

Findings

- 413 (76%) made no reference to spirituality or related terms
- 130 contained 1 or more selected terms
- Of those 130 – n= 119 were adult books and n= 11 were children's nursing
- 85 of 130 referred to aspects of spirituality specifically

Proportion of Books included dedicated to the Topic of Spirituality

Proportion of Books dedicated to Spirituality	
Nil	43 books (33.1%)
Less than 1 page	21 books (16.2%)
2-3 pages	22 books (16.9%)
4-6 pages	10 books (7.7%)
More than 6 pages	14 books (10.8%)
1 full chapter	20 books (15.4%)
Total Books = 130	

Frequencies of Search Terms isolated within the Index of the Sample.

Frequency of Search Terms	Terms:	Spirituality	Religion
	Nil	34.6%	37.7%
	Once	23.8%	20.8%
	2-4 times	15.4%	19.2%
	5-10 times	6.9%	5.4%
	More than 10 times	19.2%	16.9%

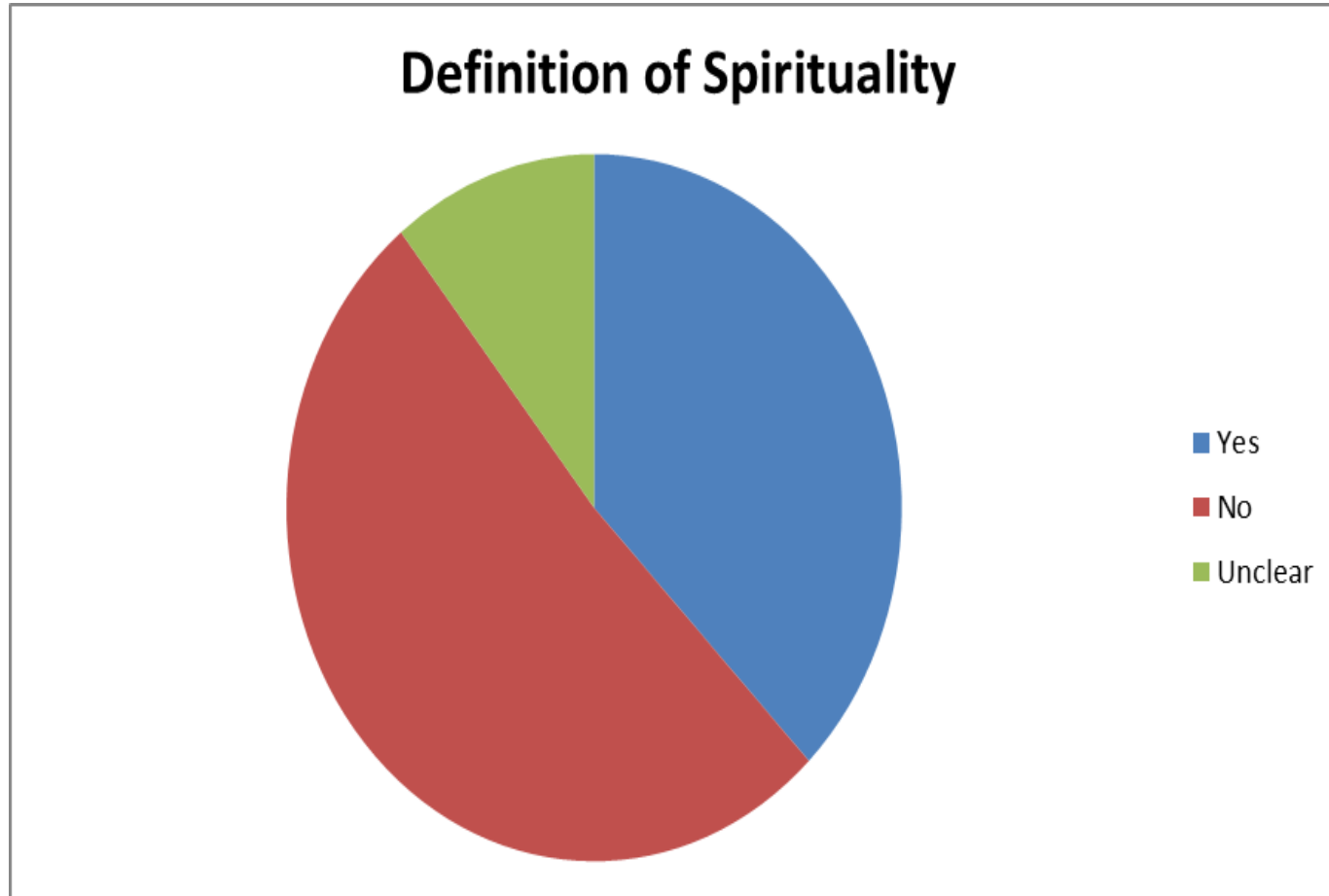
Proportion of included books dedicated to Religion

Proportion of Books dedicated to Religion	
Nil	26 books (20%)
Less than 1 page	45 books (34.6%)
2-3 pages	29 books (22.3%)
4-6 pages	14 books (10.8%)
More than 6 pages	12 books (9.2%)
1 full chapter	4 books (3%)
Total books = 130	

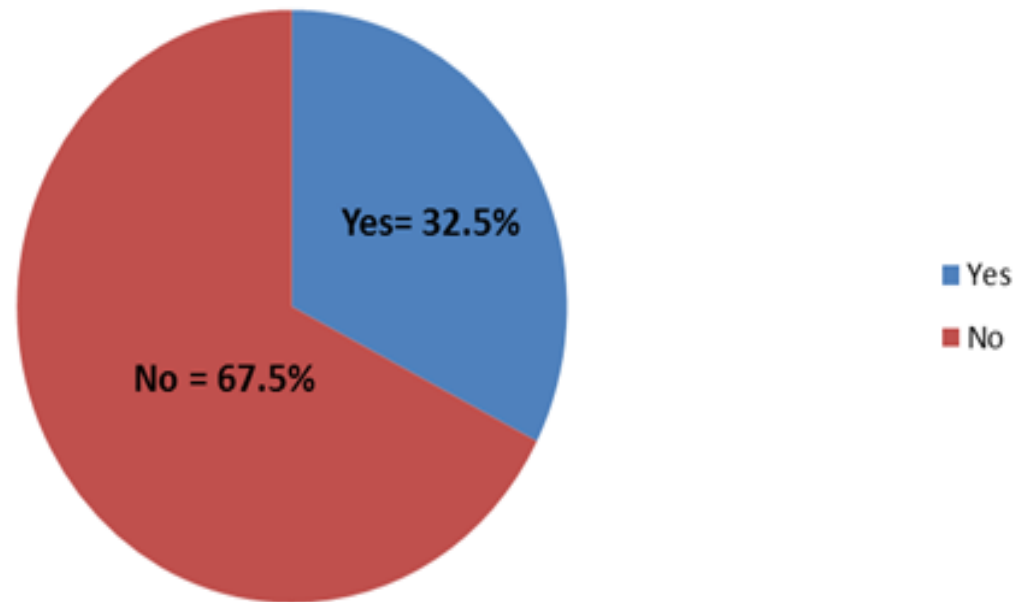
Religions cited in core text books

		Number (104)	Percentage
Religion Cited	Christianity	N=69	53.5%
	Islam	N= 48	37.2%
	Hinduism	N= 33	25.6%
	Sikhism	N=26	20.2%
	Humanism	N=18	14%
	Atheism	N=16	12.4%

Definition of spirituality



Was Spiritual Assessment Proposed



Discussion

- These findings reveal an overall lack of consistency with regard to the inclusion of spirituality and/or religion within core undergraduate nursing textbooks.
- While some advocate assessment of spiritual needs, few refer specifically to assessment tools and there was little overall consistency among those that do suggest their use.



Research highlights

- We provide a hitherto unperformed analysis of core nursing textbooks to ascertain spirituality related content.
- We examine a large sample and provide a range of useful information about inclusions and omissions in this field.
- The need to provide an integrated approach to spirituality content within textbooks is highlighted.

References

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