

Vulnerable Populations APA Paper

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Have you ever stepped back and took a look at the world? Every person you meet, every place you visit, presents a new perspective on the universe we live in. We are surrounded by different walks of life every day. Not everyone has the same views or traditions, but that is not an issue. Some people may find their ways of life to be the best way, which is why being culturally competent is important. This way of thinking is defined as *"...a lifelong journey that requires the elimination of ethnocentrism and an unconditional acceptance of cultural diversity unless the practice places another person in harm's way"* (Hood,2018,pg. 280). As we view life in this new manner, it allows accepting individuals in vulnerable populations. As a nurse, I would take care of a prisoner without any knowledge of the crime they committed.

Being a nurse in a prison setting and knowing the reasons why these individuals are incarcerated can alter the care they receive. Let's say there was a prisoner who was a sex offender, or a murderer it would be very difficult to give them unbiased care. As not only as a nurse but as a person, it would be hard to not think of answers to the reason these prisoners committed these unimaginable crimes. I would think to myself, "If they were able to take the life of another individual, "why should I help there's"? Not only would I find it hard to care for the individual, but I would be worried about my safety as well. In my head I would question if they were able to do this is another human being then why would they not try to hurt me as well. The thought of a sex offender needing care is difficult to swallow. This man or woman violated and caused permanent harm to an innocent child for their benefit. Why would I provide them with care when the victim is suffering? Although these prisoners have participated in unthinkable actions, they still have the right to being cared for. The knowledge of these crimes would just be difficult to look past, especially when it comes to taking the life of someone else.

Looking in the eyes of a prisoner who was able to destroy the life of another human being is a heavy load on the shoulders of a nurse. The thought of the pain, thoughts, and feeling the victim went

through before the crime was committed puts a guard upon me as a health care provider. Individuals who can do these heinous acts do not deserve to be helped. It is known that ethical considerations are thrown out the window when it comes to taking care of people who are locked up (Miller, 2013). The rights of patients left when they entered the facility and will stay that way due to the actions they performed. A lot of times a prisoner who is thrown in prison once can offend again. It is hard to believe everyone who walks out if able to will go back on a straight and narrow path. Even though there are many associating factors and reasons to not want to give care to a prisoner based on their crime, you have to go back to cultural competence.

At the end of the day, prisoners are people too. No matter what action they performed it is essential as a nurse to provide full care to the individual. Dr. Slim stated, *"Because usually, these are very vulnerable people from various perspectives; such as socioeconomic factors, addictions, and all the problems that they have are really not comparable to the general population"* (Miller,2013). The message is the whole surrounding of what a nurse needs to think like. Prisoners are in a vulnerable population and it is a human right to be cared for. They are not able to receive high technological care or be cared for with the best machines (Miller,2013). Their freedom has left once they entered the prison, by restricting more from these people can take away their basic right.

As a nurse, it is my job to be unbiased, unjudgmental, and respect the prisoner's diversity. At the end of the day, these prisoners deserve to be cared for regardless of their crimes. No one is perfect and people often make mistakes. There are always two sides to every story. Sanctity of human life is important to follow through on as a nurse, which is why I would not want to know the crime of the prisoner I am caring for. At the end of the day, my job as a nurse is to provide care to anyone who is in need and that is exactly what I will do.

References

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