Addressing Appalachian Health Disparities: Applying Madeleine Leininger's Culture Care Theory to Health Care in Appalachia

Background information

Madeleine Leininger's Culture Care was used to assess the Appalachian Health Disparities. The assessment criteria were initiated according to the social and economic experiences of residents compared to other regions of the United States. The major cause of healthcare disparities is the lack of relationship between healthcare providers and patients. According to transcultural theory, many rural areas, especially in the underserved mountains, have medical staffs from other regions of the country (Seamon, 2019). The stereotype of people living in the Appalachian region negatively influences the performances of providers. There is a need to train health providers on communication issues, beliefs, values, and cultures of people living in the Appalachian region to improve health outcomes.

Applying Madeleine Leininger's Culture Care Theory

The integration of Madeleine Leininger's theory will help in improving interaction and communication between healthcare providers and patients. This article shows that poor communication skills between health providers and patients lead to a high level of health disparities. The ministry of health in the United States has tried to improve social determinants in the Appalachian region but to vain (Seamon, 2019). The nurse-client relationship is enhanced when care plan services are based on cultural beliefs, lifeways, and needs of the patient. This means that the Appalachian region theory can be applied to positive healthcare outcomes.
Conclusion

In summary, the social determinants of the Appalachian region are not a major challenge affecting the healthcare system. Health disparities in the Appalachian region are associated with poor interaction and communication skills between care providers and patients. Applying Madeleine Leininger's transcultural theory can reduce stereotypes of the people and improve interaction and communication.
References


https://mds.marshall.edu/asa_conference/2019/session8/3/