CONTENT VALIDATION OF THE NURSING DIAGNOSIS IMPAIRED MOOD REGULATION

Munirat Olayinka Adebiyi[1]

Adenike Olaogun[2]

Oyeyemi Olajumoke Oyelade[3]

[*]Mental Health Ward, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria. Mobile number – 07030705932; e-mail - olayinkadb@gmail.com [1]

Department of Nursing sciences, faculty of Basic medical Sciences, Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.[2-3]

[*]Corresponding author

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Abstract

Accurate diagnosis of clients' problem through identification of defining characteristics is essential in clients' care. This study validates the defining characteristics of the nursing diagnosis "Impaired Mood Regulation" among nurses in two Federal Psychiatric hospitals in Nigeria. The diagnosis is relatively new especially in the African context. Thus, the need for its validation.

A descriptive exploratory design using Richard Fehring's Diagnostic Content Validation (DCV) model was employed and 230 nurse experts were selected using stratified sampling techniques. Ethical approval was obtained from the two institutions and Data collected using structured questionnaires. The data were managed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences Version 21.0 (IBM) and analyzed using percentages, Cronbach's (α) alpha, kappa statistics, Intraclass Correlation Coefficient, t-test, and ANCOVA at 0.05 level of significance.

The result revealed ten of the 27 DCs validated rated as major and the rest as minor charateristics of the diagnosis. Agreement of nurses on the 27 DCs as signs and symptoms of the diagnosis was categorised as moderate (r_{icc} = 0.50 - 0.75), good (r_{icc} = 0.75 - 0.90) and excellent (r_{icc} > 0.90). The length of psychiatric experience significantly influenced [F (3, 217) = 4.75, p = 0.003] nurses identification of the DCs while level of education did not [F (3, 217) = 0.495, p = 0.610]. This suggests that experience, rather than education, has greater influence on practice.

Implication for practice

This study added more defining characteristics to those listed in NADAI. Thus, increasing the applicability of the diagnosis in clinical practice.

Key words: Nursing diagnosis; Impaired mood regulation; Validation; Content validation