

THE STATE OF THE DISCIPLINE OF ET NURSING IN BRAZIL

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Donaldson and Crowley wrote their classic treatise in 1978 to deliberate on the nature of the discipline of nursing. Their expressed aims were to explicate the existing structure of the discipline (not to restructure it) and to remind nurses of their responsibility for continuously reevaluating that structure in relation to societal needs.

The natural, physical, or basic sciences are committed to generating knowledge and to organizing that knowledge. This 'scientific' knowledge is generated by explaining natural phenomena through scientific investigation.

The applied sciences are also committed to generating and organizing knowledge but have the additional burden of applying that 'scientific' knowledge to some social goal (Gortner, 1986; Johnson, 1986).

Nursing is an applied science which falls within the domain of the health sciences. The social goals of the health sciences embrace the promotion of optimal health including prevention, restoration, preservation, and palliation (Gortner, 1986; Johnson, 1974 & 1986; Stevenson & Woods, 1986).

A point of clarity is necessary. The societal needs noted above by Donaldson and Crowley should drive the social goals. The social goals should not drive the societal needs (Donaldson & Crowley, 1978; Newman, Sime, & Corcoran-Perry, 1991). This distinction is important to any professional discipline or applied science.

Using this framework, YOU must evaluate the state of the discipline of ET nursing in Brazil. Are the societal needs of your patients with ostomies, wounds, & continence being met by the social goals of your et nursing association?

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