

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In this introduction, the researchers will discuss the background of the study, the study problem, general and specific objectives of the study.

### **1.1 Background**

Holistic care is at the heart of nursing science, namely a deep understanding of patients and their various care needs (Patel & Goyena, 2023). Holistic nursing care is closely related to efforts to realize human health welfare from all aspects of physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual needs. The aspect of care that is currently lacking is the patient's spiritual needs because nurses are unable to provide spiritual care for various reasons (Patel & Goyena, 2023). Spiritual care is a form of providing nursing care where a nurse provides action to fulfill spiritual needs or all forms of problems that have occurred related to the patient's spirituality (Leeuwen & Schep-Akkerman, 2015). Spiritual care has been associated with favorable outcomes, such as increased patient resilience, decreased pain, stress, and negative emotions, and decreased risk of depression and suicide (Ismail et al., 2017). Unfortunately, spiritual care is often neglected in clinical practice (Ismail et al., 2017). Based on interviews with inpatients at Raden Mattaher General Hospital, when asked about their beliefs, patients showed signs of discomfort, anxiety, sadness, fear, and loneliness, which could hinder their physical, psychological, and spiritual well-being. In general, patients responded to their illness by praying, while very few performed shalat (Islamic prayer). Some patients even accepted their condition passively without praying Faridah (2021).

Study by (Moosavi et al., 2020) in Iran showed that 77% of patients wanted to talk about their spiritual problems, 50% of patients asked doctors to pray for them, only 6% received spiritual care from doctor, while 13% received it from

nurses. One of the studies conducted by Rosita quoted in Yuwono (2015) found that the competency level of nurses in Indonesia in fulfilling spiritual needs was still quite low, namely 57.5 %. The classic theory from Callista Roy, a nursing expert, argues that how a client adapts to the 4 dimensions of holism has a great influence on well-being. With a dynamic approach, where health workers or nurses facilitate the client's ability to adapt to each of these dimensions (Patel & Goyena, 2023). One of the key concepts of Swanson's Caring Theory is maintaining belief, which involves fostering an individual's confidence in navigating life events, transitions, and the future with optimism. It includes believing in others' abilities, encouraging a positive outlook, helping them find meaning or lessons in every experience, and always being present for them in any situation, so that every health worker should understand the comprehensive and quality service model that must be provided to individual clients Ariana (2016).

Successful implementation of spiritual care for patients requires a high level of awareness among nurses to be more sensitive and understand the spiritual needs of patients for that nurses must increase their insight, especially regarding spiritual matters (Pipit Mulyah et al., 2020). Apart from that, support from nurse managers is needed so that nurses can provide consistent spiritual nursing care (Syukur & Asnawati, 2022). In conceptualizing patient spiritual care, role managers emphasize the importance of individuality, cultural sensitivity, a strong nurse-patient relationship, an appropriate physical environment, and compassionate nursing practice Abugre & Bhengu (2024). However, not all nurses and nurse managers understand and implement spiritual care optimally (Sudarta, 2022).

The administrator has not appropriate spirituality assessment for the patients which is one of the holistic cares. Acknowledging the role of nurse managers in promoting patient centered care, which contributes to higher job satisfaction, improved nurse retention, and enhanced quality of healthcare services. In helping to realize the spiritual care of patients, it is the role of administrators to emphasize the importance of individuality, cultural sensitivity, a strong nurse- patient relationship, an appropriate physical environment, and compassionate nursing practice, and holistic care (Sudarta, 2022). They organize the organizational

environment to create an optimal atmosphere for supervision requirements by clinical nurses (Ashari, 2023). The hospital where the study take place has vision (1) International Quality, (2) Scale, (3) Reach, (4) Godly Compassion and mission The trusted destination of choice for holistic world class healthcare, health education and study.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Although there is much literature indicating that the aspect of spirituality is important to prioritize in nursing care, there is still no official guideline that provides clear policies on when and how the aspect of spirituality should be addressed. One reason patients and their families do not receive holistic care is because nurses, who often accompany them, tend to overlook their spiritual needs. As a result, patients and families do not receive adequate attention, even though spirituality is an integral part of the healing process. One factor affecting nurses or healthcare providers in delivering holistic care is they lack clear guidelines on how to provide spiritual nursing care to patients and their families (Varner-Perez et al., 2024).

In hospital accreditation assessments, the provision of nursing care must be accompanied by essential evidence, which includes patient assessments. These assessments aim to facilitate accurate decision-making in addressing deficiencies in patients' needs, including biological, psychological, social, and spiritual needs. All needs are documented in the form of assessment documentation. Therefore, it is important to provide holistic nursing care that not only focuses on the physical aspect of the patient but also includes the spiritual aspect. In summary, fulfilling the spiritual nursing care needs of patients is crucial to holistic care (SNARS, 2018).

This underscores the need to understand the hospital administrators' perception of spiritual care in a selected hospital.

### **1.3 Aim of Study**

To identify how hospital administrators perceive spiritual care for patients in a selected hospital.

### **1.4 Study Questions**

Based on the problem regarding the importance of administrators' perceptions of spiritual care, which affects the clinical care given to patients, the study question is: "What is the hospital administrators' perceptions of spiritual care?".

### **1.5 Study Benefits**

#### **1.5.1 Theoretical Benefits**

In foreign countries, specifically in the United States and Canada, various competency standards for spiritual care have started to be developed. These countries have become pioneers in developing high-quality spiritual care (Baldacchino, 2006).

In Indonesia, a study conducted in one of the hospitals in Semarang revealed that the competencies in spiritual nursing care that have been implemented by nurses, such as human value and awareness, have been carried out. However, three other domains assessment and implementation of spiritual care, attitude, and self-awareness have not been fully implemented. Based on this study, a descriptive study is needed to measure the competencies in spiritual care for patients in detail (Ulliya et al., 2023).

This study is expected to contribute to the development of nursing science, particularly in the aspect of spiritual care, which often receives less attention in healthcare services. It aims to explore and delve deeper into what administrators in a selected hospital perceive about spiritual care

### **1.5.2 Practical Benefits**

1) For Hospital

This study can help hospital administrators reflect on the current state of spiritual care practices, identify shortcomings, and use it as an evaluation tool to plan for improved integration of spiritual care in the future.

2) For Nursing Faculties

The study can serve as an evaluation resource to enhance learning about spiritual care for nursing students, equipping future nurses with the skills to provide spiritual care in daily practice.

3) For Future Study

This study can serve as a foundation for further study on spiritual care in hospitals and provides references for improving spiritual care practices in the future.