Title: The Perspectives of Global Leaders' Situated Within the Aga Khan Development Network on the Role of Nurses in Early Childhood Development: An Interpretive Descriptive Study.

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Abstract

Introduction: The role of early life experiences in life-long human development is distinct. Early life experiences are a strong indicator among the determinants of health, and they are instrumental in addressing vulnerabilities and enhancing human capabilities. Global agencies have invested substantial resources and strategies in advocating for early childhood development (ECD). Nurses have a pivotal role to play in the realization of ECD in practice, teaching, and research. However, understanding nurses' roles in the context of ECD from a theoretical and empirical perspective is limited.

Purpose: To explore the perspectives of global leaders situated within the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) regarding their perspectives on nurses' involvement in ECD. In particular, this research has focused on the leadership roles of nurses at policy levels concerning ECD in countries that receive services through the AKDN.

Framework: This research is guided by the capabilities approach framework developed by Martha Nussbaum.

Methodology: An interpretive descriptive design is employed. Data is constructed with the contribution of 11 participants who were working within AKDN institutions (health, education and development) in Pakistan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The ethical aspect of the research was considered thoroughly and required approval obtained prior to data collection. The conversations were held with individuals virtually using Zoom for 45 to 90 minutes utilizing a semi-structured

interview guide. NVivo 1.6.1 is applied for data analysis. Currently, using working data,

integrating thematic analyses as described by Braun and Clarke (2018). The transforming of the

data (discussion) will be done in light of the relevant literature and selected framework. The

implications of this research will bring new avenues for developing recommendations to

strengthen nurses' involvement in ECD in the global context to support growing and young

families. In addition, it will indicate multiple opportunities to expand and connect two crucial

fields of ECD and nursing.