

## Research Article

# Dignify Care Concept Analysis: Rodgers' evolutionary approach

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## ABSTRACT:

**Introduction:** Dignity is a common concept in societies which involves items such as human rights and medical ethics such as freedom, and equality of people. Since the political, social, economic, and cultural parameters influence the definition of human dignity, there is no consensus on the definition of attributes, antecedents, and consequences of the concept of dignify Care. Analysis of the concept of dignify care by providing a simple and understandable definition of it can be very helpful in the development of nursing knowledge and delivery of dignified care. The present study aimed to clarify, reduce ambiguities, and increase understanding of the attributes, antecedents, and consequences of the concept of dignify care through the use of Rodgers's evolutionary approach.

**Methodology:** in the present study Rodgers' evolutionary concept analysis was used because Dignify care is a concept related to the underlying context of any country. The keywords, dignify care, patient dignity, dignity in the health system, care, and dignity were used form PUBMED, Science Direct, Ovid, ProQuest electronic database between 1990-2015. After reviewing of 148 articles, 31 articles were selected for further analysis.

**Findings:** Dignify care is a dynamic and interpersonal process with 2 inherent and acquired dignity. Antecedent of its are the preservation and promotion of inherent dignity through mutual respect and its consequences include increased mutual trust and satisfaction, mutual understanding, effective communication.

**Conclusion:** Dignify care is a dynamic interpersonal process that it lead to increase mutual trust and satisfaction, mutual understanding, effective communication, and improved quality of care.

**Keywords:** Dignify Care; Dignity; Care; Health system.

## INTRODUCTION

Preservation of human dignity is one of the most important moral principles in society, especially in the health system [1]. Respect for human dignity in most societies is defined as mutual respect between people [2]. However, mutual respect between people, self-respect, and preservation of human dignity have always been emphasized in Islam and Islamic communities. Human dignity is a highly meaningful concept that the Almighty God has deposited it in the human body since the beginning of the man creation. This dignity has caused the man to be the vicegerent and successor of God and the conqueror of earth, prostrated by God's closest angels and archangels, as mentioned in a verse of Surah Al-Isra beginning with "we have

honored the children of Adam ..." (The Holy Quran, Allameh Tabatabai, 1982; Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi, 1995).

Michael states that dignity is a common concept in societies which involves items such as human rights and medical ethics. In addition, preservation of dignity is the basis of human rights, freedom, and equality of people [3]. Jackson and Irwin have also argued that dignity means how people feel and behave considering the values. They also believe that dignified behaviors lead to self-respect, confidence, and freedom in decision-making and the consequences of disrespect for human dignity include a feeling of worthlessness, lack of control, low self-confidence, lack of freedom in

decision-making, and a sense of shame. As a result, it is necessary that nurses treat patients with dignity at all stages of providing health care services, even after death [4].

Gallagher states that dignity is a bilateral issue and a basis for human rights, although it varies between individuals with different traits. In his opinion, dignity is a value that everyone should attribute to others [5]. On the other hand, few studies have been conducted on the analysis and clarification of the concept of Dignify Care. Many experts believe that the evolution of the concept has had a significant impact on the development of knowledge because concept analysis with classification and organizing of events and achieving a common understanding without personal perceptions of phenomena finally lead to the establishment of effective communications [6].

According to what mentioned above, it can be concluded that human dignity is one of the concepts which play a decisive role in the establishment and continuation of effective relations and care delivery. In addition, it is the origin of many human rights such as the right to life, the right of freedom, the right of independence, and right of security [8, 9]. On the other hand, preservation of human dignity in health systems is of great necessity [10]. Since political, social, economic, and cultural conditions influence the definition of human dignity, there is no consensus on the definition of attributes, antecedents, and consequences of the concept of dignify Care. Analysis of the concept of dignify care by providing a simple and understandable definition of it can be very helpful in the development of nursing knowledge and delivery of dignified care. Hence, the present study aimed to clarify, reduce ambiguities, and increase understanding of the attributes, antecedents, and consequences of the concept of dignify Care.

## METHODOLOGY

In the present study, Rodgers' evolutionary concept analysis was used. This approach involves data collection and analysis to identify the attributes, antecedents, and consequences of a concept in order to be more applied in real

situations [6]. By searching the keywords such as dignify Care, patient dignity, dignity in the health system, care, and dignity on PUBMED database, 143 Persian or English articles published on the subject of dignify care in the period 1990-2015 were found. After removing duplicates, the abstracts of 112 articles were evaluated in terms of the inclusion criteria and 65 of them were selected. Finally, 31 articles were selected for further analysis. Figure 1 depicts the process of articles selection. Data analysis was done using thematic analysis method.

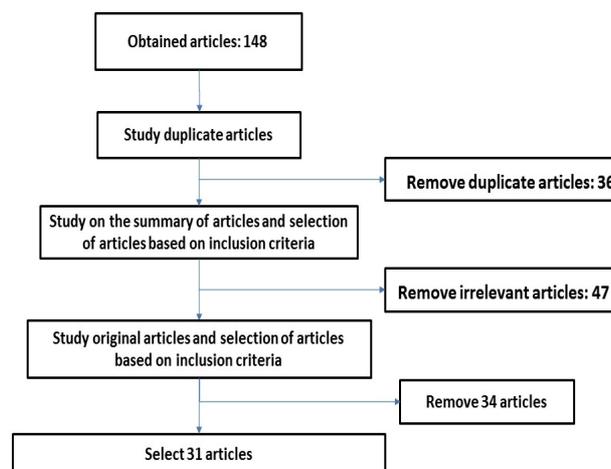


Figure1- article selecting

## FINDINGS

### Dignify care definition:

Dignify care preserves the mutual dignity of patients and the health system staff. Dignify care is a dynamic and interpersonal process whose most important antecedent is the preservation and promotion of inherent dignity through mutual respect and its consequences include increased mutual trust and satisfaction, mutual understanding, effective communication, and improved quality of care

### Attributes of dignify care concept:

The first stage of analyzing a concept is to identify the attributes of that concept. According to the study findings, dignify care is a cyclic, dynamic, interpersonal, and interactive process. In general, dignity involves two inherent and acquired dimensions. Because of their humanistic nature, all human beings possess inherent dignity, as a divine blessing, and should try to preserve it and promote it to acquired dignity (The Holy Quran, Allameh Tabatabai, 1982; Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi, 1995).

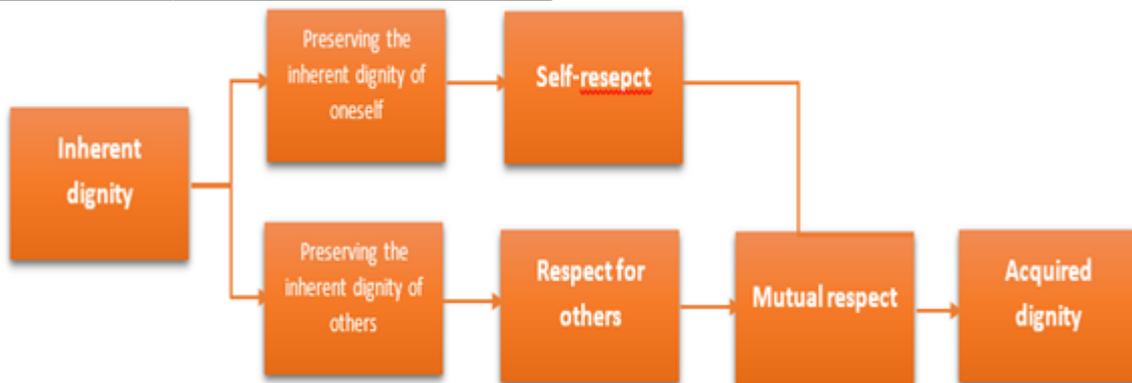
Additionally, the dignity of patients and the medical staff should be mutually taken into account and preserved in the health systems. Table 2 presents a list of articles from which the attributes of dignify care concept were extracted.

**Table 2:** The list of articles used for extraction of the attributes of dignify care concept

| Attribute                 | Articles                           |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Process                   | [14, 13, 12, 11, 5]                |
| Dynamism                  | [13, 11, 9, 5]                     |
| Interpersonal interaction | [18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 12, 11, 9, 5] |
| Inherent dignity          | [34]                               |
| Acquired dignity          | [34]                               |

**Antecedents of Dignify care concept:**

The most important antecedent of dignify care is the preservation and promotion of inherent dignity whose prerequisite is to respect ourselves and others. Inherent dignity can be promoted through acquired dignity, and respect for others is one of the solutions in this regard. In fact, it can be stated that the preservation of the inherent dignity of oneself and others can be achieved through mutual respect. Figure 2 shows a classification of the antecedents of dignify care concept.



**Figure 2:** Classification of the antecedents of dignify care concept

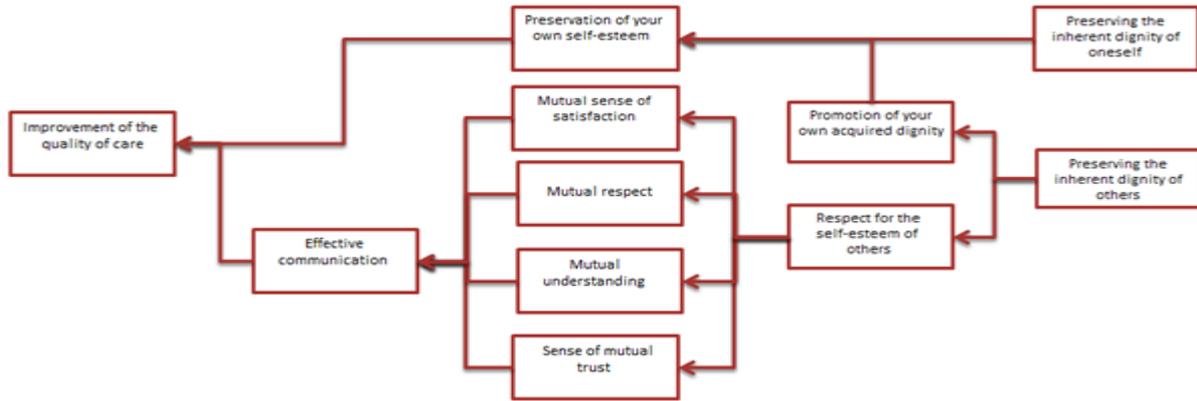
Since dignity preservation is a reciprocal relationship, personal, interpersonal, and background conditions affect it, which should be considered in interpersonal relations and especially in providing care to patients. Table 3 presents the articles from which the antecedents of dignify care concept were extracted.

**Table 3:** The list of articles used for extraction of the antecedents of Dignify care concept

| Antecedent  | Articles   |
|---|--|
| Self-respect (preservation of oneself values)                                     | [23, 19, 11, 4]  |
| Respect for others (preservation of values and rights of others)                  | [25, 24, 22, 21, 19, 17, 11, 10, 4, 3]                       |
| Personal conditions (physical, mental, spiritual, cultural, economic, and social) | [28, 36, 25, 24, 23, 20, 18, 16, 15, 14, 13, 10, 9, 8, 5, 4] |
| Interpersonal conditions (cultural, economic, and social)                         | [26, 24, 23, 20, 15, 9, 8, 5, 4]                             |
| Background conditions (cultural, economic, social, and organizational)            | [30, 29, 26, 25, 20, 18, 16, 15, 14, 9, 8, 5, 4, 2]          |

**Consequences of Dignify care concept:**

Improvement of quality of care is the main category in consequences of dignifies Care. A classification of the consequences of dignify care concept has been shown in Figure 3.



**Figure 3:** Classification of the consequences of dignify care concept

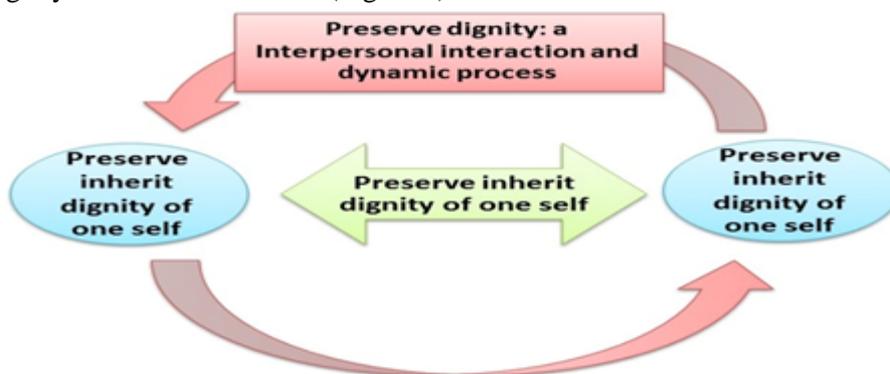
Preservation of one’s inherent dignity leads to self-esteem and preservation of the dignity of others not only promotes acquired dignity but also causes respect for the self-esteem of others and a mutual sense of understanding, trust, and satisfaction in human relations. All of these together improve the quality of care. Table 4 presents the articles from which the consequences of dignify care concept were extracted.

**Table 4:** The list of articles used for extraction of the consequences of Dignify care concept

| Consequence                                 | Articles                        |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Preservation of your self-esteem            | [31, 24, 19, 18, 17, 15, 11, 2] |
| Respect for the self-esteem of others       | [31, 19, 15, 11, 4]             |
| Mutual respect                              | [24, 16, 15, 12, 11, 4]         |
| Mutual understanding (sympathy)             | [17,15,4]                       |
| Mutual trust                                | [20 ,15, 12, 8, 4, 2]           |
| Self-satisfaction (sense of being valuable) | [18 ,15 ,4 ,2]                  |
| Effective communication                     | [18, 15 ,9 ,8 ,2]               |
| Improvement of quality of care              | [31,20,19,12,11,8]              |

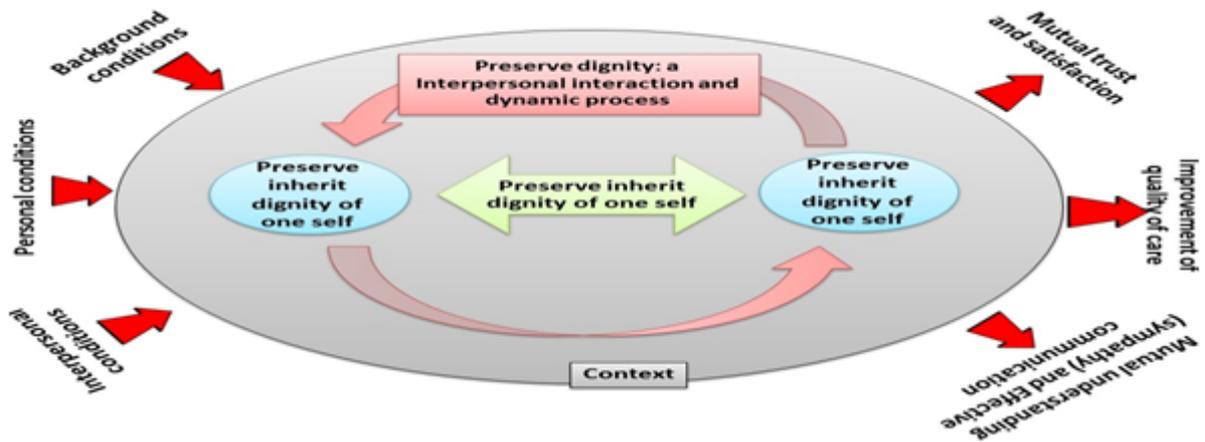
**The pattern of dignify care concept analysis:**

The findings revealed that dignity-care care is a dynamic interpersonal process that mutual respect makes it sustainable. Figure 4, developed based on above-mentioned findings, shows that preservation of dignity is a dynamic interpersonal process whose continuity and sustainability depend on respect for the inherent dignity of oneself and others (Figure 4).



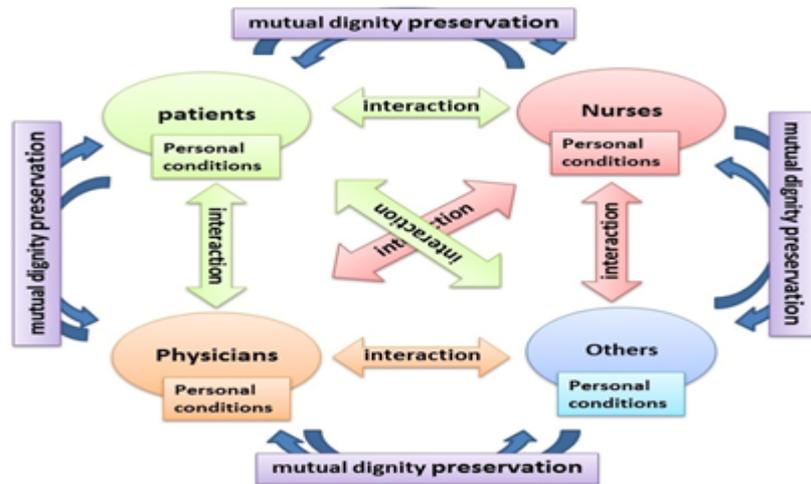
**Figure 4-** mutual dignity preservation process

Since preservation of dignity is an interpersonal process, both personal conditions (including cultural, economic, and social) and interpersonal-organizational circumstances affect it. According to the findings, Figure 5 was developed which shows the process of dignity preservation with regard to the underlying context and the factors affecting it. In addition, the consequences of dignity preservation include increased mutual trust and understanding and effective interpersonal communication (Figure 5).



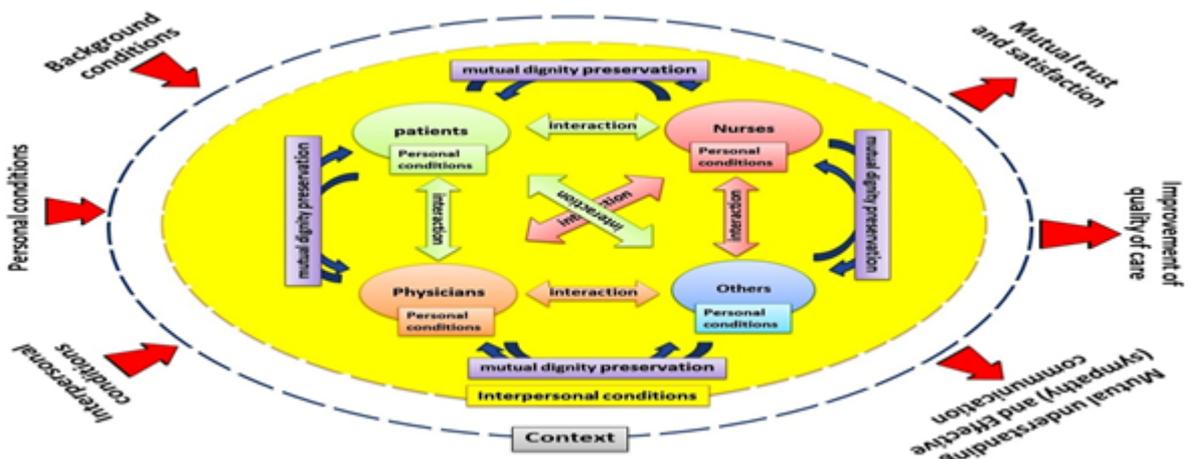
**Figure 5-** mutual dignity preservation

In the process of care, patients are in contact with nurses. In fact, there is a network of interpersonal communication between patients and the health system staff (nurses, physicians, paramedics, etc.), influenced by personal conditions of each of these individual and their relations. To have a dignify care process in all interactions, it is necessary to preserve mutual dignity. Figure 6 shows mutual dignity preservation between people in the process of care (Figure 6).



**Figure 6-** mutual dignity preservation between people in the process of care

The process of dignity preservation with regard to the underlying context, the factors affecting it, and its consequences (including increased mutual trust and understanding and effective interpersonal communication) have been presented in Figure 7.



**Figure 7-** process of dignify care

## DISCUSSION

Dignify care preserves the mutual dignity of patients and the health system staff. Dignify care is a dynamic and interpersonal process whose most important antecedent is the preservation and promotion of inherent dignity through mutual respect and its consequences include increased mutual trust and satisfaction, mutual understanding, effective communication, and improved quality of care.

Michael (2014) states that dignity is a common concept in societies which involves items such as human rights and medical ethics. He mentions two categories of dignity including inherent dignity and acquired dignity. Inherent dignity preservation involves the equality of all individuals in all ethical issues independent of conditions and the acquired dignity preservation is the basis of human rights, freedom, and equality of people [3]. Michael found similar results to those of the present study.

Baillie argues that human dignity includes expressing emotions in interaction with others. The environment, behaviors of nurses, and traits of patients affect human dignity. He also points out that disrespect for the privacy of others is a threat to human dignity [15]. Sabatino *et al.* stated that individual characteristics and environmental elements are two main dimensions of dignity preservation [32]. Tranvag *et al.* also argued that previous experience of dignity, intrapersonal dignity, and interpersonal dignity are three major aspects of patients dignity [20]. Chochinov *et al.* believe that the main categories of dignity include illness-related concerns, lack of respect for dignity, and social dignity interventions [25]. These findings are consistent with the results of the present study, as they refer to the dignity process whose prerequisite is mutual respect and various personal, interpersonal, and underlying conditions affecting it.

Hack *et al.* stated that dignify care is a approach to reduction of suffering, improvement of the quality of life, and strengthening of the sense of dignity among dying patients. On the other hand dignify care has been proven to be effective in providing a safe therapeutic environment for patients who were interviewed on life and value-

based conducts. The common core values indicated by patients included family, satisfaction, care, sense of compliance, real friendly relationship, and experience of independence. The real function of dignify care is to consider values in strengthening the dignity of patients in the last stages of the disease [33]. As a definition for dignity, Lohne *et al.* reiterate that dignity preservation means to treat other as you like to be treated by others. The stated that dignity can be experienced in respect, trust, security, and charity [17]. Some of their results are similar to the findings of the present study.

Jackson and Irwin have also argued that dignity means how people feel and behave considering the values. In their idea, physical environment, organizational culture, and conducts of the medical staff affect dignity in health and medical situations. They also believe that dignified behaviors lead to self-respect, confidence, and freedom in decision-making and the consequences of disrespect for human dignity include a feeling of worthlessness, lack of control, low self-confidence, lack of freedom in decision-making, and a sense of shame. As a result, it is necessary that nurses treat patients with dignity at all stages of providing health care services, even after death [4]. Their findings in terms of the consequences and the factoring affecting Dignify care were consistent with the results of the present study.

## CONCLUSION

Preservation of human dignity should be mutually taken into account between all humans from two perspectives of the inherent dignity of oneself and others, especially between patients and the medical staff. In the health systems, the dignity of patients and the medical staff should be mutually preserved. Some examples include maintaining the privacy of patients, respecting the values, beliefs, and opinions of patients and the medical staff, and giving freedom of decision-making to patients.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

By defining dignify care as well as the factors affecting it, the present study can be a basis for further research in this area.

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