

**PICTORIAL ANALYSIS IN DEVELOPING
CONTEXT AND KNOWLEDGE:
HEALTH DISPARITIES IN BUSHMANLAND, NAMIBIA**

Kathryn G. Sapnas, PhD, RN, CCRN, CNOR

Miami VA Medical Center

1611 NW 12th Ave.

Miami, FL 33125

Kathryn.Sapnas@med.va.gov

PURPOSE: The purpose of the analysis is to illustrate the value of photography as a medium and pictorial analysis as a method graphically document concepts of health disparity in a tuberculosis education, screening and prevention activities in Bushmanland, Namibia. The role of visual studies in nursing research and education will be illustrated as relevant and necessary in identifying a context for knowledge development in describing health disparities.

METHODS: Qualitative, pictorial analysis. Photographs taken by the author during a two-week observation period in the region are the unit of analysis. The photographs served as the data recorded on media. A series of 100 pictures were individually reviewed using content analysis for a systematic assessment. Conceptual categories were identified. Critical attributes and defining characteristics of concepts were identified. An expert panel will review the concepts and content for agreement.

FINDINGS: The concepts of access to care, care delivery, available resources, resource acquisition and community empowerment were identified, attributes and defining characteristics are illustrated. The photographs document as evidenced by lack of running water and lack of electricity. Community infrastructure underdevelopment is evident. Collaboration among a non-governmental agency, nursing and medicine is documented. Community participation in the program is high and tuberculosis spread is under control in the region. The context of the Bushmen and the culturally diverse healthcare team documents challenges in primary rural community care in the sub-Saharan Namibian bush.

CONCLUSIONS: Primary care in the rural context requires unique health and nursing care delivery models in this population. Visual studies are underutilized in nursing research and education. Photography as a medium and tool renders photographic analysis a valid method for analyzing context while developing knowledge. Nurse leaders should expand on visual methods in art and anthropology to develop new ways of knowing to include art and creativity in nursing research and education. Visual studies create a vision and provide a vehicle for ideas that policy makers and the public can use to address and improve global health as a revised method of concept analysis and development.