

Kwaliteit, beide as 'n indikator van uitnemendheid en as 'n kenmerk van 'n verskynsel impliseer norme, kriteria en beoordeling. Dit is dus te begrype dat kwaliteit in noue verband staan met navorsing. Kwaliteit manifesteer beide as 'n indikator van uitnemendheid en as 'n kenmerk van navorsing in die wetenskaplike soeke in navorsing. Daarby is kwaliteit ook aanwesig in navorsingsbevindinge. Navorsing wat verband hou met gesondheid word per slot van rekening onderneem om relevante kwaliteit kennis te genereer waardeer die kwaliteit van die lewe van mense verbeter kan word.

Metodologiese en filosofiese bepeinsing as nie-empiriese wetenskaplike handeling kan die kwaliteit van die belewenis-wêreld (lewe) van die wetenskaplike verhoog. Op dieselfde wyse kan die bevindinge van empiriese navorsing die kwaliteit van lewe van die wat aan die betrokke navorsing deelgeneem het, en die van die breër publiek waartoe sodanige bevindinge veralgemeen word, verbeter word.

Die tema kwaliteit is eksplisiet, of by implikasie, teenwoordig in elk van die artikels wat in hierdie uitgawe van Health SA Gesondheid vervat is. In die artikel oor die gesin as ondersteuningstelsel vir die psigiatriese buitepasient verwys die kwaliteit van die daaglikse bestaan van hierdie pasiënte na die fisiese, sielkundige, sosiale en spirituele ondersteuning wat hulle van gesinsgenote ontvang. Kwaliteit manifesteer verder op interpersoonlike vlak in potruurgroepsupervisie deur die beleving van verpleegstudente van wedersydse respek, vertroue, entoesiasme, empatie en geregtigheid.

Die regverdiging van persoonlike keuses kan die individu in voeling met hom/haarself bring en sodoende die kwaliteit van lewe verhoog. Die aspek word weerspieël deur verpleegkundiges wat hul keuse om opleiding in die terminasie van swangerskap te ondergaan, gekwalifiseer het in terme van publieke gesondheidsdiskoers, menseregtediskoers, persoonlike en geslagsdiskoers, burgerregte en -pligte diskoers, en sosiale struktuurdiskoers.

Vir diegene wat neuro-wetenskap beoefen word 'n graad van kwaliteit aan die wetenskapsveld verleen, en in stand gehou, deur spesifieke (en alternatiewe) perspektiewe en gesigspunte. Laasgenoemde voorsien raamwerke en epistemologie waarop die dominante diskoers in die spesifieke wetenskapsveld gebaseer word wat verder 'n bepaalde kwaliteit aan die beoefening van die betrokke wetenskap en die uitkoms daarvan gee.

Die kwantitatiewe meting van gesondheidsverbandhoudende kwaliteit van lewe word weerspieël in die relevante artikel, terwyl daar gereflekteer word op die disseminasie van kwaliteit elektroniese inligting (kennis) deur gesondheidspraktisyns aan die breër publiek in die artikel oor kinders met spesifieke kommunikasie behoeftes. Ons bedank die outeurs vir hierdie samestelling kwaliteit artikels, en vertrou dat die kennis wat deur hulle gegeneer is toepassing sal vind in praktyke wat die kwaliteit van gesondheidsorg in hierdie land sal verhoog.

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Quality, both as an indicator of excellence and as an attribute/characteristic of phenomena, implies certain norms, criteria and judgements. It is thus quite understandable that the term quality is closely related to that of research. Both as a measure of excellence and as a characteristic of research, quality is manifested in the scientific quest of research. In addition, quality also features in the application of research results. Health related research is, after all, conducted to generate relevant quality knowledge to improve people's quality of life.

Methodological and philosophical contemplation as non-empirical scientific endeavours may contribute towards improving the quality of the scientist's experiential world (life). In the same way the outcome of empirical research can improve the quality of the life of those who participated in the research and of the broader population to whom the research results might be generalised.

The theme of quality is explicitly, or by implication, present in each of the articles contained in this issue of Health SA Gesondheid. In the article on the family as support system for the psychiatric outpatient, the quality of these patients' daily living pertains to the physical, psychological, social and spiritual support they receive from family members who act as caregivers. Interpersonally, quality manifested itself in peer group supervision among students through the experience of mutual respect, trust, enthusiasm, empathy and justice.

Justifying one's decisions in life brings one in touch with oneself and could improve the quality of one's life. This is reflected by nurses who opted for training as Termination of Pregnancy (TOP) providers, who qualified their choices in terms of public health discourse, human rights discourse, personal and gender rights discourse, citizen rights and duties discourse, and social structure discourse.

For those practising neuro-science a certain degree of quality is introduced to, and maintained in, their field of scientific endeavour by specific (and alternative) perspectives or view points. These provide for assumptive frameworks or epistemology on which the dominant discourse in the specific field of science is based, providing a specific quality, to both the practising of that science and the outcome of such practice.

The quantitative measurement of health-related quality of life is embarked upon in the relevant article, while a reflection on the dissemination of quality electronic health information by health professionals to the broader public is touched upon in the article on children with specific communication needs.

We thank the authors of this collection of quality articles. We trust that the knowledge they generated will find application in practice that will enhance the quality of health care in this country.

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