PROSTATE CANCER

Name

Institution Affiliation

Course

Date

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IV. Conceptual Framework

Prostate cancer has been a problem to the United States residents and the world in general. Most of those affected are the low-income classes of people. In the United States, more than 66% of those affected are African Americans. In exploring the incidence rate of prostate cancer in African American Men in the United States, this study will apply a conceptual framework developed by Ferrell, Dow and Gulasekaram in 1995. The authors have developed a practical model which focuses on the examination of the quality of life for cancer survivors. The primary purpose of the model is to measure the quality of life for those directly or indirectly affected by prostate cancer (Ferrel, Leigh & Gulasekaram, 1995). The basic tenets in the model are physical, social, psychological and spiritual wellness. Each of the domains will be critical in analyzing how cancer has affected African American men. For example, on the physical well-being, the domain will assess concepts like appetite, sleep and rest, fatigue, depression, and the overall health of the individual. The conceptual framework selected will guide the literature review analysis to recommend the right measures to control the effects of prostate cancer. The domains of Ferrell’s model will be used in assessing articles incorporated in the integrative review. It will thus be used to analyze, summarize and report findings of the articles used in the entire study.

V. Nature of the study

A. Research method

Qualitative research method will be used in the study to explore how the black American men have been affected by prostate cancer. The measures developed at the end of the study will be based on the integrative literature review. The qualitative research method will be guided by the conceptual framework in examining the quality of life of prostate cancer survivors. A step by step examination and synthesis will be used. The exploratory research method was preferred because it offers a comprehensive understanding of the underlying motivations, reasons, and opinions on the problem. It guides the possible alternatives for developing quantitative research which can thus be generalized. Since prostate cancer has been a problem in the United States an in-depth investigation of the matter using focus groups, existing literature and surveys could not be valid in using quantitative or mixed research methods. Mixed methods would make the research too general thus negatively affecting its accuracy and reliability.

B. Research design

An action research approach will be used in this study. The method was selected based on the conceptual framework and the research topic. Prostate cancer has been a long term problem claiming the lives of African American men. It is a problem in existence; therefore modern research needs to focus on recommending efficient solution is to curb the problem. The study involves a large area of study thus disadvantaging the case study approach. A case study approach could only be preferred if the study involved a small group of individuals presented in a narrative or behavior description. On the other case, the phenomenology research design was not selected because it seeks to ignore human experiences, norms, and feelings about a particular problem. Prostate cancer is marred with a lot of norms, beliefs, attitudes, and concepts held by individuals who cannot be ignored. To address the problem of prostate cancer action research was thus preferred. The study seeks to recommend solutions to prostate cancer and how to improve the survivor’s quality of life.

References

Ferrel, B., Leigh, S., & Gulasekaram, P. (1995). An evaluation of the quality of life among long-term survivors of breast cancer. *Rehabilitation Oncology*, *15*(3), 22-23.