The use of the Photovoice method in Nursing Studies

An Integrative Review

Background and Objective:
Photovoice is a qualitative method, being a participatory research process in which all participants identify their experiences through photographs, promoting the discussion of important topics (Sousa et al. 2012; Carvalhais & Sousa, 2013).

The use of photography is a resource that has been used in nursing given that much information can be obtained through this method (Galvão et al., 2013). It was originally developed by Wang, Burris, and Ping in working with rural residents in China (1996). The collection of data through photovoice is a participatory research method (qualitative) in which participants identify their experience through photography (image) and discuss it in groups (voice) (Carvalhais & Sousa, 2013).

This study aimed to identify and analyze trends based on scientific evidence using photovoice in nursing studies.

Method:
The present study aims to combine the existing knowledge on the use of photovoice in nursing through an integrative review. Taking into account the knowledge that was intended to be synthesized, the review had the following question as its starting point: "What is the use of photovoice in nursing research?"

An integrative literature review of full texts was carried out including the databases PubMed, LILACS, CINAH, and Web of Science in the period between 2010 and 2016. Literature screening was conducted based on the following descriptors: photovoice, nurses, nursing, nurse.

Review articles were excluded and only studies focusing solely on nursing were included. After analysis according to the established inclusion criteria, 11 articles were selected from the 38 articles found.

Results:
Analysis of the obtained scientific evidence allowed for organizing the results into three thematic areas: Single instrument/Complementary Instrument, Thematic areas of method application and Differences in method utilization.

Figure 1: Thematic areas

Conclusions:
A study review allowed us to stress the use of photovoice as an important tool for nursing research, teaching and practice. The areas studied in the nursing field using this method are quite diverse. The objective of its use in the different studies was to motivate participants to develop their creativity from capturing images that portray their reality, allowing them to have a critical and reflective look (Barrow et al., 2015). Analysis of this scientific production map using the photovoice method allows us to assert its use in the most diverse areas of nursing knowledge. Although scientific research directed solely toward the use of this method is still scarce, we suggest developing new studies using photovoice given its potential as a participatory and reflective instrument.

References: