The Art of Navajo Weaving & Leadership in Native American Cultures

Mary Sobralske, PhD, MSN, RN
Weaving & Meaning in Nursing Leadership

Background

• The art of Navajo weaving represents changes that mirror culture & history of Navajo people.
• Weaving tells a story which represents viewpoints much like nursing leadership.
• Goal of nursing leaders to learn about human cultures.
• Effective nurse leaders recognize importance of culture in health care delivery systems.
• Cultural knowledge, understanding, & competency are basic tenets of nursing care.
• Navajo culture relied on oral history, story-telling, & other forms of communication to carry traditions.
• Weaving lends a story, explains an opinion, reveals an emotion, & holds an idea.
• Story intends to promote empathetic understanding.
• Symbolic, visual ideas that elicit emotions & represent cultural beliefs.
• Deep-rooted meaning & provide strong emotions.
• May be difficult for an outsider to comprehend.
• Symbolic depiction transitions in life cycle of human existence.
• Meaningful in promoting health & balance.
• Symbolic & powerful healing tool which mirrors effects of illness.
• Understanding logic & meaning of symbols can strengthen nurse leaders.
• In Native American mythology women learned to weave from Spider Woman.
• Symbol of creativity & earth, daylight, lightning, white, shell, & crystal.
• Weaving takes the form of rugs, blankets, sash belts, or baskets.

Use of Colors

• Red is a color that signifies energy, passion, & anger in Navajo culture.
• Red symbolizes the eagle & the sun in Navajo cultural beliefs.
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Dramatic 4 day & night ceremony in which girls learn to become Navajo women, adulthood, & marriage.

Yeibechai Rug

• Yeibechai literally means grandfather of the wind.
• Yeibechai is associated with Navajo tradition to perform a Kinaalda for female puberty rite.
• Yeibechai symbolizes beauty, sense of humor, creativity, &=end of her childhood.
• Yeibechai represents a stage of transition in life cycle of human.

Beading & Weaving

• Each strand is spun by an individual.
• Each strand is spun by an individual.

The Art of Navajo Weaving

• Symbolizes fertility & health in new marriage.
• Sis la chiii  a woven ceremonial sash for Kinaalda female puberty rite.
• Yeibechai rug has elaborate design & distinctive colors.
• Yeibechai rug has elaborate design & distinctive colors.

A Quiet Presence

• Yeibechai rug has elaborate design & distinctive colors.
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Weaving Basket

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Nursing Leadership in Native American Culture

• In Native American culture leadership means mentoring young people (Frisbie, 1967).
• Requires mobilizes the community.
• Demosntrate important cultural values in their actions.
• Attributes such as humility.

Highly distinctive, borderless, wavy bands (Faris, 1986).

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