
Letters to the editor

All letters to the editor should be addressed to: Editor, ANS, Aspen Publishers, Inc., 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. Unless otherwise noted, we assume that letters addressed to the editor are intended for publication with your name and affiliation. As many letters as possible will be published. When space is limited and we cannot publish all letters received, we will select letters reflecting the range of opinions and ideas received. If a letter merits a response from an ANS author, we will obtain a reply and publish both letters.

The author of the letter that appeared in ANS 17:1 is **Jeannette Hughes Archer**, University of Chicago Hospital, Chicago, Illinois.

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Carol Montgomery's¹ article, "Swimming upstream: The strengths of women who survive homelessness" in *Advances in Nursing Science* 16:3.

I'm in full agreement with the concept of this model. A way to motivate people is through their strengths and personal resources. Perhaps this way of approaching the problem of homelessness in women is a strategy that would be successful. Another model presently in existence is Orem's self-care perspective, which increases utilization of services by fostering dignity and self-esteem. Dignity and self-esteem also surface when one is able to use his or her strengths and personal resources. I also agree that there should be more efforts to correct the deficiencies within our economic and social institutions that create the conditions for homelessness.

However, I feel that this preliminary investigation to discover the sources of personal

strength in homeless women has biased overtones. There was no random selection, and the hand-picked population was much too small. I also frowned on telling each participant that she was an expert. This assumption may lead them to fabricate their recollections.

The only commonalities these women had were the following:

1. none of them were diagnosed with mental illness, and
2. they had been homeless at one time while raising their children.

Therefore, their cultural or environmental backgrounds were not equivalent, which meant that their perceptions on evaluating success should not have been measured as equally.

This brief study could be a beginning solution to a continuing present social dilemma. As a nurse presently working in community health, I can see how it could be of clinical value to the nurse-client relationship. Developing this model as a teaching tool may help one bring to the surface that which has been repressed by social misfortunes. Therefore, I feel that further investigation is needed and, with less bias, would be beneficial.

REFERENCE

1. Montgomery C. Swimming upstream: the strengths of women who survive homelessness. *ANS*. 1994;16(3): 34-45.

—*Ercerly Brockington, RN, BSN*
Daniel Hale Williams Health Center
Chicago, Illinois

Response from the author:

I refer Ms. Brockington to *The Discovery of Grounded Theory* by Glaser and Strauss¹ and *Naturalistic Inquiry* by Lincoln and Guba² (as well as other references listed in the article) for the theoretical approach to this study. Random sampling, for example, is not appropriate for a grounded theory investigation. Instead,