KNN Integrated Framework for Caring, Character and Human Flourishing

Corresponding references available in appendix

Human Flourishing

Human flourishing refers to a wholeness—of being and doing, of realizing one’s potential and helping others do the same. It can be measured across the domains of happiness; life satisfaction; physical and mental health; meaning and relationships, and is most commonly achieved through pathways of family, work, education and spiritual community.¹

Practical Wisdom

Using acquired experience to discern the right way to do the right thing in a particular circumstance, with a particular person, at a particular time.²

Character

A constellation of characteristics—moral, civic, intellectual and performance—formed over time and manifest in dispositions and practices.³

Caring

A blend of practices, dispositions and motivations—attentiveness, responsibility, competency, responsiveness and engagement/citizenship—all aimed at ensuring that individuals and populations grow, develop and flourish as best they can.⁴

Individuals

Medical and Other Health Professions Education

Health Systems and Other Practice Environments

Society

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Symbolic Significance of Imagery

• **Blue concentric rings:**
  show the levels of the ecosystem across which the elements of character, caring and practical wisdom operate to promote flourishing from the individual to society as a whole

• **Tree as a whole:**
  tree represents how the profession of medicine contributes to human flourishing through caring and character

• **Tree trunk:**
  depicts interrelationship of caring and character as the structure that supports and leads to human flourishing

• **Branches:**
  two main branches represent the different but related roles of caring and character; practical wisdom is represented by the off-shooting limbs from the main branches

• **Leaves:**
  different leaf colors reflect that human flourishing can ebb and flow
1) **Human Flourishing**: “A state in which all aspects of a person’s life are good; involves numerous domains of life, including happiness and life satisfaction, physical and mental health, meaning and purpose, character and virtue, and close social relationships.” (VanderWeele)

2) **Practical Wisdom**: “Using acquired experience to discern the right way to do the right thing in a particular circumstance, with a particular person, at a particular time.” [One who:]

   - “knows the proper aims of the activity she is engaged in, wants to do the right thing to achieve these aims, and wants to meet the needs of the people she is serving;
   - knows how to improvise, balancing conflicting aims and interpreting rules and principles in light of the particularities of each context;
   - is perceptive, reads social contexts, and [...] sees the gray in a situation;
   - knows how to take on the perspective of another, [...] feels empathy and make decisions that serve others;
   - knows how to make emotion an ally of reason, rely on emotion to signal what a situation calls for, and inform judgment without distorting it; and,
   - is an experienced person.” (Schwartz & Sharpe)

3) **Character**: “The complex [constellation] of psychological characteristics that [motivates and] enables individuals to act as moral agents.” (Berkowitz & Bier)

These characteristics are developmentally dependent and contextually formed over time. Character manifests in dispositions and practices, which are influenced by situations and valued according to the sociocultural context.

4) **Caring**: “A blend of practices, dispositions and motivations all aimed at ensuring that individuals and populations grow, develop and flourish as best they can. Caring is:

   - situated in the context of relationships and built on acceptance of interdependence;
   - acknowledges inherent power imbalances but eschews dominance and seeks humility;
   - reliant on trust as a precondition and is also generated in a reinforcing loop, and is mutually beneficial and rewarding.” (Tronto, Held, and Mayeroff)

*Note: all definitions were adapted from their referenced sources on the following slide*
References for Components in Framework

**Human Flourishing**


**Practical Wisdom**


**Character**


   *In addition, this definition was adapted from and informed by the work of several other authors including Larry Nucci, PhD and Philippa Foot, PhD.*

**Caring**


