this can result in a self-care deficit and worsening of the condition. Health care professionals and community health educators need to be aware of this resistance and work to provide clients with the skills they need to develop self-care. The lack of access can also be a problem. If individuals have been unable to obtain health care in the past, they may avoid seeking it in the future. This again compounds the health issues.

Larry Purnell and B. J. Paulanka (1998) developed a Model for Cultural Competence that describes 12 domains of culture. This assessment tool identifies ethnocultural attributes of an individual, family, or group. Box 2-2 provides a list of these domains. In everyday practice as a practical or vocational nurse, you will need to be aware of these domains. You will develop knowledge of different cultures, especially those in the area where you live and work. This should include becoming familiar with the part of the world where those cultures were established and the heritage of the people. It is also important for you to realize that individuals within a particular culture may have characteristics that don’t “fit” their group. It is important not to generalize and stereotype a member of a group (Purnell & Paulanka, 1998).

The American Nurses Association (ANA) has recognized the importance of understanding the concepts of transcultural nursing. The ANA Position Statement on Cultural Diversity in Nursing Practice (1991) maintains that:

- Cultural assessment of the client is an expected nursing function.
- Sensitive nursing care and appropriate client advocacy cannot be accomplished without knowledge of cultural diversity.

Figure 2-1

Leininger’s “Sunrise” model. This model depicts the Culture Care, Diversity and Universality theory. (Source: From Culture Care, Diversity and Universality: A Theory of Nursing, by M. M. Leininger, 1991, New York: National League for Nursing Press. Reprinted by permission.)

**BOX 2-2**

**TWELVE DOMAINS OF CULTURE**

1. Overview, inhabited localities, and topography
2. Communication
3. Family roles and organization
4. Workforce issues
5. Biocultural ecology
6. High-risk health behaviors
7. Nutrition
8. Pregnancy and childbearing practices
9. Death rituals
10. Spirituality
11. Health care practices
12. Health care practitioners