

Tikrit University

College of Nursing

Basic Nursing Sciences



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Research Methods

(Purpose of Scientific Research)

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Research methods

Purpose of Scientific Research

1. It helps to answer questions, solve problems and make decisions.
2. It enables us to see and understand how and why a situation or a problem exists.
3. It helps to discover new things and ideas.
4. It allows us to validate existing theories or generate new ones.
5. It helps us identify and understand the causes and effects of a situation or a phenomenon.
6. To bring out the truth.

Nursing Research: is systematic inquiry designed to develop knowledge about issues of importance to the nursing profession, including nursing practice, education, administration, and informatics. The general purpose of nursing research is to answer questions or solve problems of relevance to the nursing profession. The specific purposes of scientific research include:-

Identification, description, exploration, explanation, prediction, and control.

Identification

Identification – naming an unknown phenomenon in relation to nursing. In quantitative research, identification typically precedes the inquiry.

Description

Description of phenomena is another important purpose of research. In a descriptive study, researchers observe, count, delineate, and classify. The major purpose of

description research focus on the prevalence, incidence, size, and measurable attributes of phenomena.

Explanation

The goals of explanatory research are to understand the underpinnings of specific natural phenomena, and to explain systematic relationships among phenomena. Explanatory research is often linked to theories, which represent a method of deriving, organizing, and integrating ideas about the manner in which phenomena are interrelated.

Exploration

Like descriptive research, exploratory research begins with a phenomenon of interest; but rather than simply observing and describing it, exploratory research investigates the full nature of the phenomenon, the manner in which it is manifested, and the other factors to which it is related.

Prediction

Estimating the effects of a given situation or prevailing condition.

Control

Specifying psychological and physiological reactions possible to nursing intervention.

Goal of the Nursing Research

1. Developing and testing nursing theories.
2. Providing an understanding of phenomena related to nursing.
3. Fostering nurses to make informed decision in the delivery of patient care.
4. Validating effectiveness of particular nursing measures.
5. Helping to document nursing's unique role in the health care delivery system.
6. Improving the quality of care and care delivery.
7. Providing a link between theory and practice.
8. Advancing nursing as a profession.

Importance of Research in Nursing

1. Improve the nursing practice.

Research is an important means to generate a knowledge base for nursing, for nurses to become scientifically accountable, and to enable nurses to make decisions in nursing practice. Nursing research can enhance quality of care and promote health by serving as a mechanism for meeting demands for evidence-based practice.

2. Generate a knowledge base.

Nursing research is aimed to develop a scientific knowledge base for nursing practice.

3. Become scientifically accountable.

This means that nurses are responsible to the public for carrying out nursing actions that have been tested to determine that they do what they say, and these actions are the best approach for a given problem. Scientific accountability is essential for the nurse practitioner in dealing with the clients or patients, for the nurse administrator in dealing with clients, patients, or professionals in the health care delivery system.

4. Make decision in Nursing Practice.

Many nurses use the nursing process both:

- As their method of clinical practice, and
- To evaluate the quality of their nursing care.

The findings from research aid nurses in making more informed decisions in the delivery of nursing care and help explain the unique role of nursing in the health care system.

5. Research can help professional nurses develop strategies to improve the health outcomes of their patients

6. Research can help professional nurses have more influence in health care policy debates about issues such as scope of practice.

7. Can help individual nurse justify the need for their role and the boundaries of that role.(Number and types of patients seen).

8. Nurse practitioners who remain abreast of current research will practice with greater confidence.

The scientific method is based on the following assumption:

1. Objective reality exists independent from person perceptions.
2. Nature has order, regularity, and consistency.
3. All phenomena have causes that can be discovered.