

Tikrit University

College of Nursing

Basic Nursing Sciences



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Research Methods

(The Origin of Nursing Research)

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Nursing Research

The Origin of Nursing Research

Florence Nightingale is viewed as the person who first elevated nursing to the status of a profession, as presented in her first book *Notes on Nursing* (1859). Nightingale is also credited with introducing research to the profession. Nightingale believed in the importance of “naming nursing” by the use of observed data to support the need for health-care reforms, including those related to nursing education. Nightingale recognized the impact of combining strong logical thinking and empirical research in developing a sound scientific base upon which to build the practices of the profession of nursing.

Definitions of research

Research is systematic inquiry that uses disciplined methods to answer questions or solve problems. The ultimate goal of research is to develop, refine, and expand a body of knowledge.

Scientific research is a systematic and objective attempt to provide answers to certain questions.

Nursing research is defined as the application of scientific inquiry to the phenomena of concern to nursing. The systematic investigation of patients and their health experience is the primary concern of nursing.

The ability to conduct research is becoming an ever important skill. The ultimate purpose of nursing is to provide high-quality patient care. Clinical practice without research is practice based on tradition without validation. Research is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of nursing treatment modalities, to determine the impact of nursing care on the health of the patients or to test out theory. Nursing practice is undergoing tremendous changes and challenges. In order to meet social challenges and needs, nursing practice must be research based.

Research in nursing evolved predominantly when nursing education became a part of higher education and was seeking its own body of knowledge, different from that of medicine. Nursing's first researchers were being prepared in fields other than nursing and have brought to nursing the various paradigms from those fields.

Nursing research refers to the use of systematic, controlled, empirical, and critical investigation in attempting to discover or confirm facts that relate to specific problem or question about the practice of nursing.

Characteristics of Research

A scientific research has some characteristics (Singh, 2002)

1. Research is always directed towards the solution of a problem.
2. Research is always based on empirical and observational evidence.
3. Research involves precise observation and accurate description.
4. Research emphasize to the development of theories, principles, and generalizations.
5. Research is characterized by systematic, objective and logical procedures.

6. Research is marked by patience, courage and unhurried activities.
7. Research requires that the researcher has full experience of the problem being studied.
8. Research is replicable.
9. Research uses systematic method of problem-solving.
10. In research the factors which are not under study are controlled.
11. Research requires full skill of writing report

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.

Purposes of Nursing Research

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.