

Chapter 4

Identifying Nursing Research Problems

2023

10/23/2023

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Source of nursing research problems

1. Personal experiences.
2. Literature sources
3. Social issues (global social or political issues)
4. Nursing theories.
5. Previous researches.

Replication

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Research problem and problem statement

- **Problem Statement** articulate the problem and an argument that explains the need for the study.
- Includes the **significance** of the study and **justification** that the problem is researchable

- **Research Problem**
- Research problem is the enigmatic or troubling condition.
- The purpose of research is “to solve problem” by gathering relevant data.
- Found in the beginning of the article

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Components of a Problem Statement

- Identification of the problem (What is wrong with the current situation?)
- Background (What is the nature or context of the problem?)
- Scope (How big is the problem, and how many people are affected?)
- Consequences (What are the consequences of not fixing the problem?)
- Knowledge gaps (What information about the problem is lacking?)
- Proposed solution (How will the study contribute to the problem's solution?)

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Purpose of a Study (purpose statement)

- **The Purpose Statement**
- Researcher’s summary of of the overall goal.
- Addresses the reason for the study
- Answers the “why” of the study
- Sometimes stated as, Study goals or Study objective, study aim.

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Research problem consideration

- 1. Ethical Considerations**

 - Ethical Laws
 - Professional Organizations
 - Institutional Review Boards
- 2. Significance to Nursing**

 - **(so what?)**
 - Will clients benefit from the findings?
 - Will professionals benefit from the findings?
 - Will the findings add to our nursing body of knowledge?
 - **Can professionals use the results**

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Research problem consideration

3. Personal Motivation

- The researcher must be interested in the topic
- The results will be very rewarding to researcher

4. Researcher Qualifications

- Advanced educational preparation
- Undergraduate students encouraged
- Beginners collaborate with experienced

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Research problem consideration

5. Feasibility of the Study

- Helps guide completion for the study
- Consider the time factor----it is wise to allow more time than seems to be needed because unexpected delays frequently occur
- Determine the cost factor
- Identify equipment and supplies
- Administrative support
- Think about peer support for the research
- See if subjects are available

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Problem statement criteria

1. Written in interrogative (question)
2. Include the population
3. Empirically testable
4. Include the variables
 1. One variable study
 2. Two variables
 3. Multiple variables (multivariate)

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• **Example interrogative form**

- Is there a correlation between the number of hours that BS students have studied and their anxiety level before midterm exam?
- Is there difference in the preoperative anxiety levels of patients who were taught relaxation techniques compared to those patients who were not taught relaxation technique?

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The purpose or the objective

- Statement includes **why** the study will be investigated
- The purpose of this study is to **investigate** the Scholastic achievement of the nursing students and its relationship with their general health. Improving the general health of the student can improve their performance, establishing a clinic inside university can be based on the results of this study

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Research Purpose Example

- Research problem: is there a difference in the anxiety levels of nursing students who have read their clients' charts before interacting with them compared to those students who have not read their charts before interacting with them?
- Purpose: To determine a means of facilitating nursing students first interaction with clients in psychiatric setting

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Research Question

- Written in interrogative form
- Ex: is there a relationship between the number of hours that Al-Zaytoonah Uni. nursing student in have studied and their achievement level in the nursing research course.
 - Existence of relationship.
 - Direction of relationship
 - Etc.

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Examples

Read the following statements and decide whether the 4 elements of research statements are present

- Is there a relationship between fathers' height and their sons' height?
- Is there a difference between level of assertiveness between women and men?
- Is there a relationship between self concept of BS nursing students and their level of career inspiration?

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Problem of the study

Is there a difference in the anxiety levels of nursing students who have read their client's charts before interacting with them compared with those students who have not read their client's charts before interacting with them

Purpose of the study

To determine a means of facilitating nursing students' first interaction with clients in the psychiatric setting

10/25/2023

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