

Nursing Faculty Members' Attitudes and Perceived Barriers towards Conducting Scientific Research: A Descriptive Study

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Abstract: Nursing research has a tremendous influence on current and future up gradation of nursing profession. Mandatory nursing research courses are being taught in almost every nursing program. But unfortunately it is found that nursing lags behind in conducting scientific research in compare to other disciplines due to various factors. **Aim:** To assess the nursing faculty members' attitudes and perceived barriers towards conducting scientific research. **Method:** Study was conducted by using descriptive research design; self - structured questionnaire was used to collect data from 65 nursing faculties from different nursing colleges of Guwahati by using convenient sampling technique. **Result:** Out of 65 faculty members majority i. e. (96.9%) were female, (56.9%) were single, (50.8%) had completed B. sc Nursing/ Post Basic B. sc Nursing, (49.2%) were clinical instructor, (40%) had 1 - 3 years of working experience and (40%) had involved in both teaching and clinical duty. In assessing attitude majority i. e. (86.2%) answered that nurses with different degrees were not in need of knowledge based on the research as much as medical doctors, (93.8%) replied that nursing profession consists of practical work and does not have to include research, (95.4%) disagreed that nurses do not need of research in nursing to improve the nursing care as nurses can manage that by themselves, (96.9%) disagreed that participation in research work does not contribute to increased skills in nursing profession. Lack of confidence to perform the research activities, unawareness of using electronic data base, lack of knowledge about research methodology, no sufficient time to find research ROL, lack of statistical knowledge, see little benefits for self from research, other organizational goals are considered as higher priority rather than research activities, insufficient time on work place and overloaded with curriculum, no time for conducting research were found as barrier in conducting research. **Conclusion:** Nursing faculties were found having positive attitude towards conducting nursing research, but due to certain barrier they were unable to conduct it. Most of the faculties reported that they need proper guidance, statistical training, funds and mentors to conduct scientific research.

Keywords: Nursing Faculty Members, Attitudes, Perceived Barriers, Scientific Research.

1. Introduction

Nursing research has a tremendous influence on current and future up gradation of nursing profession, and thus it has become an essential component of the nursing educational process. Different governing bodies of nursing across the world have also understood the importance of research in nursing. Therefore, mandatory nursing research courses are being taught in almost every nursing program. Further, more importance is being given to the nursing publications made by nurse academicians, which constitutes the fruit of scientific research in the field of nursing practice. Academic research productivity is used not only as a guide for departmental and institutional strength, but also as an indicator of the strength in nursing practice. Unfortunately it is found that nursing lags behind in compare to other disciplines in conducting scientific research. Many factors have been reported affecting academic research productivity in the nursing profession. Alghanim and Alhamadi (2011) classified those factors into individual and institutional factors, where individual factors included age, academic ranking and experience, whereas institutional factors included provision of funds, departmental support, inadequate financial support, limited time for conducting research work, inappropriate research skills, and lack of mentors' support have been considered as barriers toward conducting research.

Problem definition

Nursing Faculty Members' Attitudes and Perceived Barriers towards Conducting Scientific Research: A Descriptive Study.

2. Method

The study was conducted by using descriptive research design; self - structured questionnaire was used to collect data from 65 nursing faculties from different nursing colleges of Guwahati, Assam by using convenient sampling technique. The tool consists of 4 sections - Section 1 contains demographic variables, section two contains questions related to attitude, section three consists of questions related to individual barrier and section 4 consists of questions related to organizational barrier.

3. Results & Discussion

Section – 1

Table 1, n=65

Demographic variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Female	63	96.9
Male	2	3.1
Marital status		
Single	37	56.9
Married	28	43.1
Educational Level		

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BSc N/ Post Basic Bsc N	33	50.8
Msc N	31	47.7
PhD	1	1.5
Designation		
Clinical Instructor	37	56.9
Lecturer	16	24.6
Asst. Professor	4	6.1
Asso. Professor	2	3
Professor	0	0
Vice Principal	2	3
Principal	4	6.1
Years of teaching experience		
Less than 1 year	10	15.3
1 - 3 years	26	40
4 - 6 years	14	21.5
7 - 9 years	8	12.3
More than 10 years	2	10.9

Type of work -		
Teaching	24	40
Clinical	12	20
Both teaching and clinical	24	40

Table - 1 - Shows that out of 65 faculty members it is found that majority i. e. (96.9%) were female, (56.9%) were single, (50.8%) had completed B. sc Nursing/ Post Basic B. sc Nursing, (49.2%) were working as clinical instructor, (40%) had 1 - 3 years of working experience and (40%) had involved in both teaching and clinical duty.

Section - II (Attitude questionnaire) -

Table 2

Attitude questionnaire	Yes	No
In the nursing area too much is written and there is too much talk about research and development.	76.9	23.1
Nurses with different degrees (BSN, MSN, PhD) are not in need of knowledge based on the research as much as medical doctors.	13.8	86.2
The nursing profession consists of practical work and does not have to include research	6.2	93.8
There is no point in devoting your time to development in nursing research.	7.7	92.3
We do not need of researchers in nursing to improve the nursing care as nurses can manage that by themselves.	95.4	4.6
Different nursing courses like PhD, MSN, and BscN course are based too heavily on research.	47.7	52.3
Research complicates my daily nursing work.	21.5	78.5
Research does not give the PhD/MSN/ BSN holder a higher status.	24.6	75.4
Further education in research is not important for my future career.	4.6	95.4
Participation in research work does not contribute to increased skills in nursing profession.	3.1	96.9
It is not realistic to apply research to the practical work.	6.2	93.8

Table 2 shows that in assessing attitude it was found that majority i. e. (76.9%) agreed that in nursing area too much is written and there is too much talk about research and development, (86.2%) answered that nurses with different degrees (BSN, MSN, PhD) were not in need of knowledge based on the research as much as medical doctors, (93.8%) disagreed that the nursing profession consists of practical work and does not have to include research, (95.4%) disagreed that nurses do not need of research in nursing to improve the nursing care as nurses can manage that by

themselves, (52.3%) disagreed that research does not give the PhD/MSN/ BSN holder a higher status, (95.4%) disagreed that further education in research is not important for my future career, (96.9%) disagreed that Participation in research work does not contribute to increased skills in nursing profession and (93.8%) disagreed that it is not realistic to apply research to the practical work.

Section - III (Individual barrier) -

Table 3

Items related to personal barrier	Yes	No
Lack of personal computer	41.5	58.5
Lack of internet service	40	60
Lack of confidence to perform the research activities	46.2	53.8
Unwillingness to change or try new ideas	35.4	64.6
Unawareness of the methods of using the electronic data base.	53.8	46.2
Lack of knowledge about research methodology	56.9	43.1
Have no sufficient time to find research review of literature	69.2	30.8
Lack of knowledge in understanding the statistical analysis	67.7	32.3
Difficulty in understanding research reports.	44.6	55.4
Difficulty in identifying the implications of research findings for One's own practice.	50.8	49.2
See little benefits for self from research	53.8	46.2
Budget of research is within the ability of my pay	69.2	30.8
Lack of competent supervisor	66.2	33.8

In table - 3 it is showed that the factors which were found related to personal barrier were - unawareness of the methods of using the electronic data base (53.8%), lack of knowledge about research methodology (56.9%), have no sufficient time to find research review of literature (69.2%), Lack of knowledge in understanding the statistical analysis

(67.7%), difficulty in identifying the implications of research findings for one's own practice (50.8%), see little benefits for self from research (53.8%), budget of research is within the ability of my pay (69.2%) and lack of competent supervisor (66.2%).

Section - IV (Organizational barrier) -

Table 4

Items related to organizational barrier	Yes	No
Other organizational goals are considered as higher priority rather than research activities	80	20
Limited organizational budget for conducting training on research activities	90.8	9.2
Insufficient resources for conducting research e. g. computers, and library references.	83.1	16.9
Insufficient time on work place to conduct research	93.8	6.2
Institution's administration is not supportive to conduct research activities	38.5	61.5
Overloaded with curriculum, no time for conducting research activities	75.4	24.6

Table 4 shows that majority i. e. (80%) replied that other organizational goals are considered as higher priority rather than research activities, (90.8%) replied limited organizational budget for conducting training on research activities, (83.1%) replied as insufficient resources for conducting research e. g. computers, and library references, (93.8%) answered insufficient time on work place to conduct research and (75.4%) said that they were overloaded with curriculum, no time for conducting research activities.

4. Conclusion

Nursing faculties were found having positive attitude towards conducting nursing research, but due to certain barrier they were unable to conduct it. Most of the faculties reported that they need proper guidance, statistical knowledge, fund and mentors towards conducting scientific research.

5. Future Scope

Future research can be conducted in different settings to find out the barriers for conducting research study and more statistics and details research methodology can be added in nursing syllabus.

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