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Unit – II
Research Problem Question

*Mrs. S. Andal, M.Sc(N).,
Professor cum Research Co-ordinator
Faculty of Nursing*

INTRODUCTION

It is a question that a researcher wants to answer or a problem that a researcher wants to solve.

Selection of a research problem depends on several factors such as researcher's knowledge, skills, interest, expertise, motivation and creativity with respect to a subject of inquiry.

Definition

A problem is a interrogative sentence or statement that asks what relation exists between two or more variables. The answer to questions will provide what is having sought in the research.

- Kerlinger

Cont...

A situation for which we have no ready & successful response by instinct or by previous acquired habit. We must find out what to do.

– R.S. Woodworth

Sources/IDENTIFICATION of Research Problem AREA

- **Personal experiences**

Day to day personal experiences of the researcher may serve as good source of ideas to formulate a research problem.

- **Practical experiences**

Nurses get plenty of ideas to formulate research problem from their clinical experience.

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- **Critical Appraisal of Literature**

When we critically study books and articles relating to the subject of our interest, including subject reports, opinion articles and summaries of clinical issues. These may strike readers mind indirectly by stimulating imagination and directly by stating what additional research is needed.

- **Previous Research**

A body of knowledge should be developed on a sound foundation of research findings. Further refinement of the previous studies by made in the experimental treatments or more appropriate outcome measures may be identified.

Cont...

- **Existing Theories**

Research is a process of theory development and theory testing. The testing of an existing theory is definitely needed in nursing, to testing in the clinical situation.

- **Social issues**

Sometimes, topics are suggested by more global contemporary social or political issues of relevance to the health care community. An idea for a study may stem from a familiarity with social concerns or controversial social issues.

Cont...

- **Brainstorming**

It is a good techniques to find new questions, where an intensified discussion among interested people of the profession to find more ideas to formulate a good research problem.

- **Intuition**

Intuitions are believed that the reflective mind is a good sources of knowledge/ideas to find new research problems.

Cont...

- **Folklores**

Folklore is the expressive body of culture shared by a particular group of people; it encompasses the traditions common to that culture, subculture or group. Researchers can conduct a research study to find more ideas about culture.

- **Exposure to field situation**

During field exposure, researchers get variety of experiences , which may provide plenty of ideas to formulate research problem.

- **Consultation with experts**

Experts may help in finding a current problem of discipline for formulation of research problem.

Criteria for Selecting Good Research Problem

- Significance to Nursing Profession
- Original
- Feasible to time, cost, equipment and supply, administrative support, peer's support, availability of subjects, Researcher's competence and ethical consideration.
- Solvable / Researchable
- Current
- Interesting

Formulation of Research Problem

- Selection of Research Area
- Reviewing Literature and Theories
- Delimiting Research problem
- Evaluating Research Problem
- Formulating final statement

Cont...

- ***Selection of Research Area***

Formulation of research problem begins with selection of board research topic from personal experience, literature, previous research and theories in which researcher is interested.

- ***Reviewing Literature and Theories***

Literature is reviewed to know what has already been done I this selected area of research. Therefore researcher can plan a research topic to further expand the existing body of knowledge in respective area of research.

Cont...

- ***Delimiting Research problem***

In this researcher proceeds from a general research area of interest to more specific topic of research to conduct a study.

- ***Evaluating Research Problem***

Once researcher is clear about the specific research problem that must be carefully evaluated for its significance, researchability and feasibility.

Cont...

- *Formulating final statement*

After establishing significance, researchability and feasibility, the researcher finally formulates a final statement of a research problem. A statement of research Problem could be in declarative or interrogative format.

Formulation of research problem is preferable if it fulfills the following features

- Research Problem is clearly, precisely and concisely articulated.
- It clearly states the variables, population and research settings under study.
- Variables are expressed in measureable terms.
- The type of study also may be included in the statement of research problem.

Problem statement

- **Evaluate the effectiveness of structured teaching program [STP] on knowledge regarding effects of psychoactive substance use among adolescent patients in selected psychiatric hospital at Chennai.**