

RESEARCH

CRITIQUING JOURNAL ARTICLES

Dianne Juliff
SKHS



Nursing Research

Background:

- Historically nurses have conducted research since Florence Nightingale
- Move toward evidence-based nursing research - clinical problems
- Joanna Briggs institute for nursing and midwifery research



Research

- Move toward evidence-based practice - research of clinical problems. *Why?*
- Systematic search for knowledge
- Improves practice
- Enhances the profession - nursing/midwifery/LC
- Commitment and accountability
- Document the role of the practitioner in health care delivery
- Impacts decision-making in the delivery of care



Types of research

QUALITATIVE

Broadly stated research questions about human experiences, generating rich descriptive data, usually narrative

(Liehr & Marcus, 1994)



Qualitative

- Interpretative paradigm - ethnography, phenomenology, grounded theory
- Differs philosophically from quantitative research
- The theory that drives the research - qualitative research is inductive versus quantitative research is deductive
- Qualitative methods - interviews, participant observation, record review, field notes



Types of research (cont.)

QUANTITATIVE

Systematic collection of numerical, objective data, using controls and analysis involves statistical methods (Polit & Hungler, 1999)



Quantitative

- Logical-positivist approach, objectively measured (Liehr & Marcus, 1994)
- Quantitative methods - questionnaire, intervention, experiments, quasi-experiments

Becoming increasingly common to triangulate data collection and include both methodologies



Why critique research?

Assist with:

- Provision of new knowledge
- Answer questions
- Solve problems
- Sort out the good from the bad

Achieved by choosing key articles from searches and systematically reviewing content for relevance





Aspects of a research critique

- Is the problem/ purpose of the research clear?
- Identify the concepts of the literature review. Are gaps identified? Does the literature support/justify the research problem? Conceptual framework?
- What is the significance of the research?
- Are the research questions/objectives clearly stated?



Critique (cont.)

- What variables are being studied? Operationalised?
- What is the study design? Does it suit the research question? (internal/ ext validity)
- Sampling method? Sampling size? What is the sampling methodology?
- Data collection methods?
- Quantitative - reliability/ validity of tool?
- Qualitative- trustworthiness?



Critique (cont.)

- Ethical issues?
- How is the study analysed? What are statistics/analysis has been used?
- Generalisability of the study?
- Findings interpreted in context, discussion?
- Recommendations?