NURSING RESEARCH TOOL

Abstract

Nursing research involves a systematic investigation of nursing phenomena, aimed at generating new knowledge, enhancing nursing practice, and informing nursing policy. Research tools play a vital role in advancing knowledge, improving patient care, and enhancing nursing practice. These tools are specifically designed to collect, analyze, and interpret data, enabling nurses and researchers to explore various aspects of healthcare and make evidence-based decisions. A good research tool typically exhibits three key characteristics: validity, reliability, and usability. When choosing data collection tools, researchers should assess them based on these attributes to ensure their effectiveness and suitability for the research objectives. There are some Common research tools in Nursing i,e-: Surveys and questionnaires are widely used research tools in nursing to collect data from a large number of participants efficiently, observation is a fundamental aspect of nursing practice. By using observational tools, nurses can systematically record and analyze patient behaviors, interactions, and responses to interventions. In-depth interviews are valuable for obtaining rich and detailed information from participants, nurse researchers can use structured, semi-structured, or unstructured interview formats to explore specific research topics and gain insights into participant's perspectives. Focus groups are small group discussions. They are effective for exploring attitudes, opinions, and beliefs related to specific healthcare issues. Focus groups promote interactions among participants, which can lead to valuable insights, Case studies involve in-depth analysis and examination of individual or specific situations to gain understanding of a particular healthcare issues. Some online research tools in nursing are PubMed, CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, Cochrane Library, Google Scholar etc. There

Author

Susmita Medhi
Department of Mental Health Nursing
Institute of Nursing Education
Krishnaguru Adhyatmik
Visvavidyalaya
Nasatra, Barpeta, Assam.

are some importance of research tool are enhancing data collection, enabling evidence-based practice, contributing to nursing research. In conclusion, research tools are indispensable in nursing, supporting evidence-based practice, patient care, and professional development.

Keywords: Nursing, Survey, validity, research tool, evidenced based practice, PubMed

I. INTRODUCTION

Nursing, as a dynamic profession, heavily relies on research based practice to deliver effective patient care. Research tools in nursing play a critical role in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data to generate evidence that informs clinical decisions and improves patient outcomes. There are various research tools and methods used in nursing to gather data and conduct research studies, facilitating the collection, analysis, and interpretation of information related to healthcare and patient well-being.

Nursing research involves a systematic investigation of nursing phenomena, aimed at generating new knowledge, enhancing nursing practice, and informing nursing policy. Nursing research tools serve as instruments used to collect data in these studies, enabling the collection of both quantitative and qualitative information.

In the field of nursing, research tools play a vital role in advancing knowledge, improving patient care, and enhancing nursing practice. These tools are specifically designed to collect, analyze, and interpret data, enabling nurses and researchers to explore various aspects of healthcare and make evidence-based decisions.

Overall, meticulous selection of data collection or research tools significantly contributes to researchers' success in achieving their objectives and streamlining the data collection process, ultimately saving valuable time.

Data collection or research tools encompass various devices or instruments utilized for gathering data, such as paper questionnaires or computer-assisted interviewing systems. These tools serve the purpose of measuring variables and collecting essential information to address research questions effectively. By carefully selecting the appropriate research tools, researchers can enhance their ability to achieve goals efficiently and save valuable time.[3]

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD RESEARCH TOOL

A good research tool typically exhibits three key characteristics: validity, reliability, and usability. When choosing data collection tools, researchers should assess them based on these attributes to ensure their effectiveness and suitability for the research objectives.

1. **Validity:** A data collection tool must deliver pertinent information and there should not be any systematic errors. In simpler terms, validity refers to the degree to which an instrument accurately measures what it is supposed to be measuring. Validity is classified into following three categories.
   - Content validity
   - Criterion-related validity
   - Construct validity.

   - **Content Validity:** Content validity concerned with scope of coverage of the content area to be measured. It is determined through expert judgment, careful analysis of research objectives, and, if relevant, the hypotheses to be tested. It is most commonly used in measuring complex psychological tests a person.

- **Criterion-Related Validity:** Criterion-related validity comes into play in situations where decisions are influenced by an person's anticipated activity, as projected by a research tool. This form of validity evaluates the correlation between the current results obtained from the specific research tool and the individual's future behavior. To assess the predictive validity of a tool, its results need to be compared with the actual future performance or outcomes.

- **Construct Validity:** Construct validity is a key criterion for assessing the quality of a study, and construct validity has most often been addressed in terms of measurement issues. Construct validity holds great significance when assessing individuals on diverse psychological traits and abilities. Establishing construct validity involves examining the relationship between a presumed measure of a construct and the behaviors it is hypothesized to represent.[4]

2. **Reliability:** A data collection tool must possess reliability, which means reliability is concerned with consistency of the measurement tools. A tool only can be considered reliable if it measured an attribute with similar results on repeated use. When measuring an characteristic, features or trait repeatedly using the tool, it may yield dissimilar results. These differences can be attributed to either genuine changes in an individual's behavior or inconsistencies in the tool's performance. If the variations in results are genuinely linked to changes in behavior, the tool's reliability remains intact. However, if the discrepancies are a result of the tool's inconsistency, it should be discontinued or replaced.[4]

   There are several ways to measure the reliability for the research tools and these include

   - **The Test-Retest Method:** This method entails administering the same tool once again to the same group of individuals shortly after its initial use. The level of agreement or consistency between the information and data collected from both administrations determines the tool's reliability.

   - **The Equivalent or Parallel Forms Method:** For this approach, two equivalent or parallel forms of the tool are prepared and given to the same sample of subjects. The items in both tests are designed to be parallel. The results obtained from the two sets of measures are then correlated to determine the level of reliability.

   - **The Split-Half Method:** In this approach, two comparable and parallel forms of the tool are prepared and administered to the same group of subjects. The items in both tests are designed to be similar. The results obtained from the two sets of measures are then correlated to ascertain the level of reliability.

   - **The Rational Equivalent Method:** This method is often regarded as less restrictive compared to the aforementioned techniques. It entails considering two forms of the tool is equal when their corresponding contents can be interchanged. So, approach is commonly employed to assess the reliability of different psychological tests.[4]

3. **Usability:** The usability of a tool is contingent upon its cost-effectiveness, the time and effort needed for administration, objectivity, and the ease of analysis and drawing conclusions from its utilization.[2]

III. COMMON RESEARCH TOOLS

1. **Surveys and Questionnaires:** Surveys and questionnaires are widely used research tools in nursing to collect data from a large number of participants efficiently. Nurses can employ these tools to explore patient experiences, perceptions, and satisfaction levels. Surveys are instrumental in identifying trends, patters, and potential areas for improvements in healthcare delivery.[9]

2. **Observational Tools:** Observation is a fundamental aspect of nursing practice. By using observational tools, nurses can systematically record and analyze patient behaviors, interactions, and responses to interventions. This data helps in understanding patients progress, indentifying deveins from expected outcomes, and adjusting care plans accordingly.[4]

3. **Interviews:** In-depth interviews are valuable for obtaining rich and detailed information from participants, Nurse Researchers can use structured, semi-structured, or unstructured interview formats to explore specific research topics and gain insights into participants perspectives.

4. **Focus Groups:** Focus group is a research technique that collects data through group interaction on a topic determined by the researcher. Focus groups are small group discussions led by a moderator. They are effective for exploring attitudes, opinions, and beliefs related to specific healthcare issues. Focus groups promote interactions among participants, which can lead to valuable insights [7]. Focus groups are small group discussions led by a moderator. They are effective for exploring attitudes, opinions, and beliefs related to specific healthcare issues. Focus groups promote interactions among participants, which can lead to valuable insights.

5. **Case Studies:** Case studies involve in-depth analysis and examination of individual patients or specific situations to gain a detailed understanding of a particular healthcare issue.

6. **Charts Reviews and Clinical Data Analysis:** Charts reviews involve the systematic examination of patient medical records and health data. This method is useful for retrospective studies and can provide valuable information about patient demographic, diagnoses, treatments, and outcomes.

7. **Actions Research:** Action research involves collaboration between nurse researchers and practitioners to indentify and address specific problems within clinical settings. This interactive approach allows for continuous improvements and implementation of evidence-based solutions.

8. **Psychometric Instruments:** These tools are used to measure and assess various psychological constructs such as patient's satisfaction, quality of life, pain intensity anxiety, and depression. Examples include the Visual Analog Scale (VAS) and the Shorts Form Health Survey (SF-36)

9. **Electronic Health Records (EHRs):** EHRs have transformed the way healthcare information is documents, stored, and accessed. These comprehensive electronic records

enable nurses to retrieve patient data quickly, track treatment progress and indentify trends in patient outcomes. EHRs also facilitate seamless communication and collaboration among healthcare team members, ensuring continuity and quality of care.

10. **Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses:** Systematic reviews and meta-analyses are essential research tools that synthesize and evaluate existing evidence on a particular topic. Nurse can utilize these tools to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the available literature, assess the strength of evidence, and draw evidence-based conclusions that guide clinical practice.[2]

IV. SOME ONLINE RESEARCH TOOLS IN NURSING

1. **PubMed:** PubMed can be used to search research artless. PubMed is a free search engine maintained by the U.S. National Library of Medicine. It grants access to an extensive collection of biomedical literature, encompassing research articles and studies related to nursing.

2. **CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature):** CINAHL is a comprehensive database dedicated to healthcare, nursing and allied health disciplines. CINAHL comprises research articles, clinical trials, and other healthcare-related content.

3. **Cochrane Library:** The Cochrane Library is a reliable source for systematic reviews and evidence-based healthcare information. Cochrane covers a wide range of medical topic, including nursing interventions and best practices.

4. **Google Scholar:** Google Scholar is a freely accessible search engine that indexes scholarly literature, encompassing peer-reviewed articles, theses, books, scientific papers, and patents. Nurses can find academic research using this tool.[6]

V. ADVANTAGES OF USING ONLINE RESEARCH TOOLS

There are several advantages associated with using online research tools

1. **Accuracy:** Online research tools, such as surveys and customer reviews, provide a market researcher with precise data since information is obtained directly, minimizing the likelihood of errors in the research process.

2. **Speed:** Conducting online market research is efficient due to the centralized data accessible on the internet. Anyone with a computer and internet connection can access the required information without the need to physically search for data, saving valuable time.

3. **Honesty:** Studies conducted by market researchers reveal that respondents tend to be more candid and open when filling out online surveys. The presence of a computer as an intermediary helps screen respondents from seeing the interviewer's reactions, encouraging more honest responses, especially when expressing unfavorable opinions.

4. **Affordability:** Online research tools offer cost-effectiveness both in conducting research using various tools and utilizing online survey software. Creating surveys for online distribution costs very little, with business organizations easily able to generate necessary

materials using applications like Microsoft Word. Additionally, many survey software options are available either for free or at highly affordable upgrade prices.[1]

VI. IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH TOOL

1. **Enhancing Data Collection:** Data collection or research tools encompass various devices or instruments utilized to gather data, such as paper questionnaires or computer-assisted interviewing systems. Among these tools are surveys, interviews, questionnaires, and observation methods, enabling nurses to obtain valuable information from patients, their families, and other healthcare professionals. This data collection process serves a dual purpose: understanding patients' needs and preferences while also aiding in the formulation of research questions and the development of nursing interventions.

2. **Enabling Evidence-Based Practice:** The foundation of evidence- base practice rests on reliable research. Research tools facilitate the acquisition of evidence that guides nurses in making informed decisions about patient care. By critically appraising published studies, nurses can use the greatest available evidence with their clinical expertise and patient's worth to deliver optimal care. This approach leads to decreased medical errors, and enhanced patient satisfaction. [8]

3. **Contributing to Nursing Research:** Research tools empower nurses to actively participate in research endeavors. They can design and conduct studies that address nursing-specific issues, ultimately contributing to the expansion of nursing knowledge. Engaging in research fosters a culture of inquiry, where nurses continuously seek innovation solutions to challenges encountered in their practice, promoting professional growth and the advancement of the nursing discipline.[5]

VII. USING RESEARCH TOOLS EFFECTIVELY

In order to use research tools effectively, it is important to consider the following factors;

- The purpose of the research
- The type of data that is needed
- The population that is being studied
- The resources that are available[1]

VIII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, research tools are indispensable in nursing, supporting evidence-based practice, patient care, and professional development. These tools enable nurses to collect and analyze data effectively, actively participate in research, and continuously improve the quality of care they provide. Embracing research tools in nursing practice is essential for staying current in an ever-changing healthcare landscape, promoting optimal patient outcomes, and advancing the nursing profession as a whole. As technology and research methodologies continue to evolve, nurses must remain proactive in integrating research tools into their practice to provide the highest standard of evidence-based care to their patients.[2]

Choosing the appropriate research tools depends on the research question, study design, population, and the desired depth of data collection. Additionally, ethical considerations and informed consent are critical when using any research tool involving human participants.

Research tools in nursing significantly contribute to evidence-based practice by facilitating data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Form electronic databases to technology-driven tools like data mining and EHRs, nurses have and array of resources at their disposal to advance nursing knowledge and improve patient care, shape the future of healthcare delivery and make a positive impact on patient outcomes.

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