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# Compose Research Problems and Purposes



## Contributors

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# Type of Study Conducted



- Knowledge available on topic
- Expertise of researcher
  - Replication versus Original research
- Resources of researcher
  - Amount of funding
  - Sources of funding

# Original Research



- **Original Research:**
  - Unique or new research idea
  - For advanced researchers
  - For examples:
    - ✦ Dissertation
    - ✦ Funded research project
    - ✦ Program of research in an area

# Replication Research



- Replication or repeating a study to confirm original findings
- Encouraged for novice or new researchers:
  - Thesis
  - First clinical research project

# Types of Replication



- **Exact replication:**
  - Precise, exact duplication of original research project to confirm findings
  - Includes same design, instruments, sample, and setting as original study
- **Approximate replication:**
  - Repeating the original study under similar conditions, following methods as closely as possible
  - Most common type of replication conducted in nursing

# Types of Replication



- **Concurrent replication**
  - Collection of data for original study and replication is done simultaneously
  - Replication is part of the original study design
- **Systematic replication**
  - Constructive replication done under new conditions where replication study does not follow the design or methods of the original study
  - But begins with similar problem and develops a new design to verify the findings

# Research Topics



- Major concepts
- Focused on areas of concern
- Key issues for practice, education, administration
- For examples:
  - Chronic pain
  - Acute pain
  - Self-care
  - Coping
  - Health promotion
  - Respiratory pathology



# What is a Problem?



- Area of concern
- Gap in the knowledge base for practice
  - Not previously studied
  - Conflicting findings
  - Omission of a group of subjects
- Significant for nursing

# What is a Research Problem?



- A situation in need of a solution, improvement, or alteration
- or
- A discrepancy between the way things are and the way they ought to be

# Key Phrases for Problem



- Little is known about...
  - Findings of previous studies are conflicting
  - Few studies on a certain topic/issue have been done

# Sources of Research Problems



- Nursing practice
- Research priorities
- Researcher and peer interaction
  
- Literature review
- Theory

# Purpose Statement



- Clear, concise statement
- Indicates the goal, aim, focus, or objective of the study
- Includes the study variables, population, and setting

# Purpose and Type of Study



- The purpose of a study is to
  - describe...
  - determine differences between groups...
  - examine relationships among...
  - determine the effect of...

# Examining Study Feasibility

- Time commitment
- Money commitment
- Researchers' expertise
- Availability of subjects, facility, and equipment
- Ethical considerations



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# Critiquing Problem and Purpose



1. Are the problem and purpose of the study clearly and concisely expressed?
2. Does the purpose identify the variables, population, and setting of the study?
3. Are the problem and purpose significant to generate nursing knowledge?
4. Was it feasible for the researchers to study the problem and purpose identified?



# Conceptual Framework



- An abstract, logical structure of meaning that guides the development of the study
- Enables the researcher to link the findings to the body of nursing knowledge
- Related terms:
  - Concept
  - Relational statement
  - Theory
  - Conceptual model

# Terms Related to Framework (1)



- **Concept**
  - A term to which abstract meaning is attached
- **Relational Statement**
  - Declares a relationship of some kind exists between two or more concepts

# Terms Related to Framework (2)



- **Theory**
  - Integrated set of defined concepts and relational statements that presents a view of a phenomenon
  - Can be used to describe, explain, predict, or control the phenomenon
  - Statements of the theory, not the theory itself, are tested through research

# Terms Related to Framework (3)



- **Conceptual model**
  - A set of highly abstract concepts and statements of relationships that broadly explains the phenomena of interest to a discipline
  - For example:
    - ✦ Neuman
    - ✦ Orem
    - ✦ Rogers
    - ✦ Roy

# Research Process



Review of Literature



Problem



Purpose



Method



Results



Discussion

# Planning a Research Project



- Please see the handout, entitled “Steps in planning your research projects”