

ARAŞTIRMA

DETERMINATION OF THE NURSES' VIEWS OF THE RESEARCH AND THE USE OF RESEARCH RESULTS IN PRACTICAL FIELD

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ABSTRACT

The use of nursing research results in practical field increases the quality of nursing care and enables a fast process of professionalization. This study has been carried out restrictively to determine the nurses' views of the research and the use of research results in practical field, namely at clinics. In the study, the question form containing questions to describe the socio-demographic and professional qualities of the nurses has been used and so has the "Questionnaire to Determine the Nurses' Views of the Research and the Use of Research Results", which was adapted from the "The Barriers to Research Utilization Scale" developed by Funk et al. SPSS 10.0 package program has been used for the evaluation of the data obtained. It has been found out that majority of the nurses have agreed on the remarks that reflect positive comments on the research as follows: "There is a need of the results obtained from the research.", "Nursing research improves the nursing practices.", "Nursing research enables the development of professionalization in nursing." and "Nurses are under the obligation of participating in the the research done in the field of nursing." It has also been discovered that nurses' deprivation of easy access to research manuscripts, abstruse expression of the statistical analyses in the research manuscripts and lack of time for nurses to read the research manuscripts are regarded as primary preventive factors in the use of research results in practical field.

Keywords: Nurse, nursing care, research, attitudes to research, use of research results in practical field

ÖZET

Hemşirelerin Araştırmaya ve Araştırma Sonuçlarının Uygulama Alanında Kullanılmasına İlişkin Görüşlerinin Belirlenmesi

Hemşirelikte araştırma sonuçlarının uygulama alanında kullanımı hemşirelik bakımının niteliğini artırır ve hızlı profesyonelleşmeyi sağlar. Bu araştırma; hemşirelerin araştırmaya ve araştırma sonuçlarının uygulama ortamında kullanılmasına ilişkin görüşlerini belirlemek amacıyla tanımlayıcı olarak yapılmıştır. Bu çalışmada hemşirelerin profesyonel özelliklerini ve sosyo demografik özelliklerini içeren soru formu ve Funk ve arkadaşları tarafından geliştirilen 'Hemşirelik Araştırmalarından Yararlanmada Engeller' skalasından adapte edilen 'Hemşirelerin Araştırmaya ve Araştırmaların Kullanılmasına İlişkin Görüşlerini Belirleme Anketi' kullanılmıştır. Elde edilen verilerin değerlendirilmesinde SPSS 10.0 paket programı kullanılmıştır. Hemşirelerin büyük çoğunluğunun "Hemşirelikte araştırma sonucu ortaya konulmuş bilgilere ihtiyaç vardır" "Hemşirelik araştırmaları hemşirelik uygulamalarını geliştirir" "Hemşirelik araştırmaları hemşirelikte profesyonelliğin gelişmesini sağlar" "Hemşirenin hemşirelik alanında yapılmış araştırmalara katılma zorunluluğu vardır" gibi araştırmaya ilişkin olumlu görüşler yansıtan ifadelere katıldıkları belirlenmiştir. Hemşirelerin araştırma bulgularını uygulama alanında kullanılmasında 'araştırma bulgularına kolay ulaşılmaması araştırma makalelerinde istatistiksel analizlerin anlaşılır şekilde ifade edilmemesi hemşirenin araştırma makalelerini okumak için yeterli zamanının olmaması ifadelerinin en önemli engeller olduğu belirlenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Hemşire, hemşirelik bakımı, araştırmaya karşı tutumlar, araştırmaların uygulama alanında kullanımı

INTRODUCTION

Research is a scientific process of study by which to shed light on the unknown events or factors, to develop the known, to illuminate any subject, to bring a solution to a problem and to attain certain concepts, theories and laws (Sümbüloğlu and Sümbüloğlu 2000). Research makes it possible to distinguish a profession

from others by means of choosing the knowledge, revealing and testing it; to form the concepts and theories peculiar to a profession itself; to gain power and autonomy; and to be professionalized in the end (Bahar 1996, Emiroğlu and Aksayan 1999, Kocaman 2004). For nursing to be a full profession,

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to express itself fully and to contribute to public health, it is supposed to improve its services on a scientific level as in the other disciplines (Bayık 2002, Glacken and Chaney 2004, Hutchingson 2004).

The use of nursing research results in practical field will increase the quality of nursing care and make it possible to make the nursing interventions more effectively and to be professionalized quickly (Veeramah 2004, Hommelstad and Ruland 2004, Hugh et al. 2004, Glacken and Chaney 2004). With the use of research results in practical field, the nurse will come to be a strong member of the profession who continuously develops and improves herself to become finally an expert that can decide on the care of the patient (Huckginson 2004). The nurses working in practical field should be in collaboration with the academician nurses so that research results can be used in practice. This collaboration will help the nurse grasp the significance of the research, interpret the findings of the research accurately and use them more extensively and efficiently (Bahar 1996).

While nurses have realized the importance of research in gaining strength and qualifications in their profession and offering nursing service of high quality, it appears that there is not an adequate place assigned for the use of research results in practical field in literature (Luker and Kenrick 1995, Bayık 2002). A lot of studies have been carried out to determine the reasons why nurses do not use the research results in practical field. It has been determined through these studies that among the most important factors preventing nurses from using the research results in practical field is lack of enough time for them to read the results of the research and interpret them (Kajermo et al. 1998) another factor is nurses' inability to reach the research results and, when this is possible, to evaluate them (Funk et al. 1991) also nurses feel that research results do not fit their working environment (Retsas 2000) and lastly, their failure to get support from their colleagues and management in reflecting these results into their field and thus their experience of lack of autonomy and authority (Parahoo and Mc Caughan 2001, Retsas 2000, Funk et al. 1991).

In our country, the history of nursing research is just in its infancy. The research is usually carried out by academician nurses and research results are not adequately reflected to

the practice. (Emiroğlu 2004, Bayık 2002, Velioglu and Oktay 1999). On the other hand, Khorsid (1996) determined that majority of the nurses attach importance to the research-making in nursing while Durmuş et al. (1996) reported that %60 of the nurses are eager to work in collaborative research with academician nurses. There are several studies dealing with nurses' views of the research in our country. However, we have failed to come across studies that examine nurses' views of the reasons why research results are not used in practical field.

This study has been carried out restrictively to determine the nurses' views of the research and the use of research results in practical field, namely at clinics.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The universe of the study is made up of 674 nurses working at three different hospitals in Sivas. The sample of the study, however, consists of 442 nurses who have agreed to participate in the research and filled in the questionnaire form completely. Thus, 66% of the universe has been attained.

Ethic consideration

Following the written consent of the institution, the nurses have been given information on the research. Upon getting the nurses' oral permission and consent, they have been given the questionnaire to fill in.

Collection and analysis of the data

In this study, 'Question Form' and 'Questionnaire to Determine Nurses' Views of Research and Use of Research Results' have been used as the means to collect data. This study was realized in between May and September 2005.

The Question Form consists of 19 questions towards finding out the nurses' demographic and professional qualities, their experience of research and their ability to use the research results in practical field.

"The Questionnaire to Determine the Nurses' Views of the Research and the Use of Research Results" has been arranged by examining the tools/scales developed for defining the nurses' views of the research in nursing literature and the cases that prevent the use of research results. (Funk et al. 1991, Parahoo 2000, Enç and Yıldız 1998, Hommelstad and Ruland 2004) The questionnaire used in this study has been

prepared with attention paid to the scale developed by Funk et al. in 1991 and to the one by Bjorkstroom and Hamrin in 2001. The questions of the questionnaire have been prepared by getting the experts' views on the research and reviewing the literature knowledge.

The questionnaire has been prepared in two parts. The first part contains 12 statements aiming to determine the nurses' views of the research. The nurses have been asked to evaluate these statements by marking either of the following comments: "I agree." or "I do not agree." The second part, on the other hand, includes 19 statements aiming to determine the nurses' views of the factors preventing the use of research results in practical field. The nurses have been asked to choose any of the following comments for each statement on the use of research results in practical field: "It leads to 1st-degree holdback", "It leads to 2nd-degree holdback", "It leads to 3rd-degree holdback" or "It leads to no holdback". Reliability study has been carried out after the experts' views have been taken for the questionnaire. There is not a

special scoring system in the questionnaire, and the statements have been evaluated according to the frequency distribution. In our study, however, Cronbach alpha coefficient has been found as 0.85.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Half of the nurses participating in the study are between the ages of 25 and 29; 53.0% of them are married; 41.0% have completed a two-year degree while %35.0 are university graduates. 46.0% of the nurses have a 1-to-5-year experience in their job and 73.0% are employed as service nurse. It has also been found out that 92.0% of them do not follow a professional journal regularly or continuously; 89.0% do not have the internet facility at their working environment; 75% have never been involved in such a research process before. 70.0% of the nurses, on the other hand, have reported that they do not use the research results in practice.

Table 1 consists the statements aiming to determine the nurses' views of research.

Table 1. Nurses' Views of the Research (n= 442)

Views	I agree		I do not agree	
	N	%	N	%
There is a need for the knowledge obtained from research.	433	98.0	9	2.0
Nursing research improves nursing practice	429	97.1	13	2.9
Nursing research enables the nursing practices to be visible to or to be realized by everyone.	418	94.6	24	5.4
Nursing research enables professionalization to be improved in nursing.	423	95.7	19	4.3
A nurse should improve her profession with knowledge and research.	389	88.0	53	12.0
Nursing is a profession of caring and does not concern itself with research.	127	28.7	315	71.3
The research in nursing does not improve the nursing care; the nurse will improve her caring on her own	88	19.9	354	80.1
Nursing research makes the nursing practices more complicated.	63	14.3	379	85.7
Research is just concerned with the nursing training, not with the nursing practice.	95	21.5	347	78.5
A nurse is under the obligation of participating in the research done in field of nursing	221	50.0	21	50.0
A nurse's participation in the research enables her to improve herself	338	76.5	104	23.5
A nurse's lack of information about the research done in field of nursing affects the quality of the nursing practices.	328	74.2	114	25.8

It has been found out that majority of the nurses have agreed on the positive statements on research such as the following: “There is a need for the knowledge obtained from research.”, “Nursing research improves nursing practice.”, “Nursing research enables professionalization to be improved in nursing.” and “A nurse is under the obligation of participating in the research done in field of nursing.” However, the number of those who have reported they agree on the negative statements on research such as the following ones is relatively high: “Research is just concerned with the nursing training, not with the nursing practice.”, “Nursing is a profession of caring and does not concern itself with research.” and “The research in nursing does not improve the nursing care; the nurse will improve her caring on her own.” Almost 1 out of 5 nurses has reported that they agree on these negative statements on the research.

It has been found in our study that majority of the nurses agree on the positive statements regarding the research (Table 1). In their studies on intensive care and service nurses, Enç and Yıldız (1998) determined that though majority of these nurses have reported their belief in the significance of research, a relatively smaller number of them follow the professional manuscripts. Similarly, the number of those who have reported their agreement over the positive statements regarding the necessity of research is pretty high, while that of those who have reported that they regularly follow a professional journal is comparatively low. It has been indicated that the young nurses with a university education and research training, who have positive attitudes to the research and have the ability to evaluate and interpret the research use the research results in practical field more frequently (Berggren 1996). In their study (Parahoo and McCaughan 2001) on the nurses at

internal diseases and surgical departments, Parahoo (2000) found that the rate of the nurses who defend the argument that the profession of nursing should be based on research is 71.0%. In his study (Korkmaz 2002) in Ankara, Korkmaz found as 14% the rate of the nurses who agree that research increases the nurses’ information and knowledge level. For the professionalization of the nursing, it is necessary that the nurse should have her own theoretical knowledge, which should be acquired by research, and that all practice should be based on proof (Parahoo and McCough 2001).

That majority of the nurses participating in our study have got positive statements regarding the research may be indicative of the fact that the nurses are conscious of professionalism and practice based on proof. However, we believe that it is not right to underestimate the number of the nurses who have reported that they agree on the statements “Research is just concerned with the nursing training, not with the nursing practice.”, “Nursing is a profession of caring and does not concern itself with research.” and “The research in nursing does not improve the nursing care; the nurse will improve her caring on her own.” This is because 1 out of 4 nurses on average has reported that they agree on the above statements that can be regarded as a negative outlook to the research. In a similar study in Northern Ireland by Parahoo and McCough (2001), the rate of the nurses who have agreed on the statement that “Research is not concerned with the practice of nursing.” was found as 19%. We are of the opinion that these views are associated with the low educational level of the nurses participating in our study and their inadequate experience of acquiring research information and having research.

Table 2. Nurses’ Views of the Factors Preventing the Use of Research in Practical Field (n=442)

Statements	It leads to 1st-degree holdback		It leads to 2nd-degree holdback		It leads to 3rd-degree holdback		It leads to no holdback	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Lack of easy access to the research manuscripts	259	58.6	102	23.1	69	15.6	12	2.7
Uncertainty about how the research results will affect the nursing practice	141	31.9	120	27.1	157	35.6	24	5.4

Abstruse explanation of the statistical analyses in the research manuscripts	249	56.3	105	23.8	70	15.8	18	4.1
Irrelevance of the research results to the nursing practice	159	36.0	121	27.4	109	24.6	53	12.0
Nurses' unawareness of the subjects in nursing about which research is done	179	40.5	115	26.0	118	26.7	30	6.8
Nurses' deprivation of the possibilities to use the research results in nursing practice	190	43.0	129	29.2	104	23.5	19	4.3
Managers' failure to be supportive of the practice of research results	197	44.6	108	24	112	2.3	25	5.7
Nurses' lack of enough time to read the	213	48.2	108	24.4	75	17.0	46	10.4
Inadequate testing of the research topic in different studies	92	20.8	147	33.3	172	38.9	31	7.0
Lack of nurses' authority to alter the nursing practice by using the research results	181	41.0	157	35.5	80	18.1	24	5.4
Inappropriateness of the research results for the nursing practice	51	34.2	125	28.3	142	32.1	24	5.4
Doctors' collaboration with the nurses in using the research results in practice	153	34.6	133	30.1	124	28.1	32	7.2
Lack of clear and understandable language in the research manuscripts	139	31.4	143	32.4	133	30.1	27	6.1
Lack of the other staff's support for the nurses in using the research results in practice	125	28.3	156	35.3	134	134	27	6.1
Nurses' reluctance to make some changes and try the new ideas	153	34.6	112	25.3	136	30.8	41	9.3
Presence of too much knowledge from the research to be used in nursing practice	76	17.2	131	29.6	170	38.5	65	14.7
Nurses' feeling of incapability of evaluating the quality of the research	120	27.1	123	27.8	153	34.6	46	10.6
Lack of nurses' time to practise the new thoughts while working	132	29.9	125	28.3	143	32.4	42	9.5
Absence of colleagues from whom to take supervision and guidance about the research results and with whom to discuss about them	138	31.2	111	25.1	156	35.3	37	8.4

Table 2 gives the nurses' views of the factors preventing the use of research results in practical field. The nurses participating in the study have reported the following as the 1. degree holdback in preventing them from using the research results in practical field: Lack of easy access to the research manuscripts (58.6%), abstruse explanation of the statistical analyses in the research manuscripts (56.3%) and their lack of enough time to read the manuscripts (48.6%). 14.7% of the nurses have reported that they find the following factor as lesser degree holdbacks in preventing them from using the research results in practical field, which is the presence of too much knowledge from the research to be used in nursing practice; 10.6% have reported the following factor as less capable of preventing them from using the research results in practical field, which is the nurses' feeling of incapability of evaluating the quality of the research.

It has been seen that the priority preventive factors reported by the nurses in our study to prevent the use of research results are similar to the ones reported in the studies done in other countries. "Lack of easy access to the research manuscripts" has been, for example, reported by 59% of the nurses as 1st-degree hold-back. Examining the similar studies on this issue, it appears that Kajermo et al. (1998) found it as 78%, Oranta et al. (2002) as 46%, and Dunn et al. (1998) as 45%. However, it was found in a study by Funk et al. (1991) that this item has never been perceived as a holdback at all. Nurses' easy access to the research manuscripts will make it possible for research findings to find a place for them in daily nursing practices (Glacken and Chaney 2004).

Rutlegne et al. (1998) indicated that nurses report they lose their time while changing their clothes when they are obliged to go to library for the research literature, but they also state that although they have the chance to reach some research manuscripts via online, they have difficulty obtaining the manuscripts since they do not have the required qualifications to search for the suitable manuscript online; in this study, the nurses also report that to solve this problem, the suitable research literature should exist at the department where they work. It is emphasized that regular arrival of the manuscripts to the nurses' institution would make it possible for the research results to be used in practical field more

frequently (Funk et al. 1991, Dunn et al. 1998, Kajermo et al. 1998, Rutledge et al. 1998).

"Abstruse explanation of the statistical analyses in the research manuscripts" has been reported by the nurses in our study in the 2nd order in preventing the use of research results in practical field. Parahoo (2000) found out that nurses could read more easily the manuscripts written in a short, simple and understandable language. The research manuscripts written in such a way as to be understood by the nurses easily will motivate the nurses to realize the research findings and positively support their efficiency in transferring these findings into practical field (Glacken and Chaney 2004). That the abstruse explanation of the statistical analyses in the research manuscripts has been reported by the nurses in our study in the 2nd order is attributable to the fact that the courses of statistics and research in the nursing training do not make enough contribution to the nurses' ability to read, understand and interpret a research manuscript. Therefore, the courses of statistics and research present in the nursing curriculum should be rearranged so that the nurses can be provided with the required information and skills. The rate at which the abstruse explanation of the statistical analyses in the research manuscripts has been reported by the nurses in the studies abroad as preventing the use of research results in practical field (Dunn et al. 1998, 75%, Oranta et al. 2002, 71%, Parahoo 2000, 69%) has been found as higher than the one in our study. This result, we assume, is connected with the low rate at which the nurses participating in our study follow any professional journal. As a result of the low rate of following a professional journal and thus reading manuscripts, it is thought that the number of those who regard this issue as a problem will be small. However, the researchers had better be careful to express the statistical analyses more understandably in the manuscripts and report the ways in which the results will be reflected in clinical practice.

In the present study, "lack of nurses' time to practise the new thoughts while working" has been reported as a holdback in the 3rd order by 49.0%. Among the similar studies done abroad, there are some studies in which this factor has been found as being a higher-order holdback (Funk et al. 1991, %64, Mc Cleary and Browns 2003, 80% Parahoo 2000 53.6%), while

there are others in which it has been found as being a lower-order holdback (Hom-melstad and Ruland 2004 2.5%). It is also reported that as majority of the nurses are female and thus have responsibilities as a wife and mother at their homes, this case leads to a restriction in their following the nursing literature and causes them to avoid, therefore, reading literature in their spare time (Hommelstad and Ruland 2004). On the other hand, Parahoo (2000) maintained that the nurses should be assigned some extra time for the analysis of the research, for reading the manuscripts and for transferring the research results into the practical field. Besides these points, it is supposed that such factors as the high amount of workload of the nurses working in our country, the restricted number of staff and their inefficiency in following manuscripts in

foreign languages could as well be effective on this result

It has been determined that the nurses participating in the research do not see the following cases as priority ones preventing the research results from being used in practical field: “presence of too much knowledge from the research to be used in nursing practice” (14.7%) and “nurses’ feeling of incapability of evaluating the quality of the research” (10.6%). In the studies done abroad, it appears that the rate of those who report these factors as preventive is higher (Funk et al. 59%, Dunn et al. 70%). We assume that this result is associated with the fact that nursing in our country has a shorter past of research than the one in Europe and that nursing training in our country was complicated and unresolved until a short time ago.

Table 3. Distribution of the Facilitating Elements Recommended by Nurses for the Use of Research in Practical Field (n=179)

Facilitating elements (*)	Number	Percentage
Managers’ support of the research	102	57.0
Better announcement of the research results to nurses	70	39.4
Assignment of time to nurses to do research	54	30.0
Creation of an additional budget for research	43	24.0
Health team’s other members’ support of the use of the research results	40	22.3
Reduction in the workload of nurses	23	12.8
Organization of inservice training over the research	21	11.7
Facility of internet at clinics	19	10.6
Publication of the manuscripts in Turkish	7	3.9
More research on the clinic	5	2.7

*As more than one answers have been given, n percentage has been taken

Table 3 presents the facilitating elements recommended by the nurses to increase the use of research results in practical field. Of the nurses who have reported their views on this issue, 57.0% have stated that managers’ support of the research will facilitate the use of research results in practical field and 39.4% have agreed on the better announcement of the research results to the nurses in increasing the use of research results in practice.

For the research results to be used in practical field, some facilitating elements should be developed. 41.0% of the nurses participating in our study have reported that there is a need for facilitators in order to use the research results in practical field. Of the nurses who have found them necessary, 57.0% have reported that the managers should be supportive of research-

making. Parahoo (2000) stated that managerial support is the most important facilitator. Funk et al. (1991) found out that nurses do not receive support from the managers to apply the research results, also emphasizing the importance of manager for increasing the use of research results. McCleary and Browns (2003) determined that nurses should have positive attitudes to research and they have designated the managerial support as the most important facilitator.

CONCLUSION

Carried out to determine the nurses’ views of the research and the use of research results in practical field, the present study has revealed the following results:

Most of the nurses participating in the study have uttered positive statements towards research, such as “There is a need for the information obtained from research” (98.0%)

factors as the 1st-order ones preventing the use of research results from being used in practical field: “Lack of easy access to the research manuscripts” (58.6%), “Abstruse explanation of the statistical analyses in the research manuscripts” (56.3%) and “lack of nurses’ time to read the research manuscripts” (48.6%).

57.0% of the nurses have stated that to increase the use of research results in practical field, managers’ supportive attitudes to the making of research and to the use of research results are the most important facilitating factors

Evaluating the data from our study, the following recommendations have been made:

To support the nurses’ use of the research results in practical field, the nurses should be given inservice training on the

and “Nursing research includes nursing practice” (97.1%).

The nurses have reported the following necessity of research, the process of research and statistical analyses.

To ensure the access to the research manuscripts, manager nurses should try to make it possible that professional journals be accessible to the institutions regularly and internet communication be improved at these institutions.

A research unit should be set up at the hospitals where the study has been carried out.

To extend the use of research results in practical field, some studies should be done to support the care practice in accordance with the research results.

As managerial support is of importance in using the research results in practical field, some research should be done to examine the factors affecting the managers’ support of the use of research results.

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