

FORMULATION OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

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Objectives

At the end of the class, students will be able to:

- Enumerate the steps to be followed in the formulation of research problem.
- Describe delimiting the research problem
- Explain the different formats of writing the research problem.

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Selection of a research area:

- Formulate of a research problem begins with selection of a broad research topic from personal experience, literature, previous research, & theories in which researcher is interested & has significance for nursing profession.
- For example, a researcher gets an idea to conduct a study on the female feticide.

Reviewing literature & theories:

- ✦ After getting a broad idea for research, he or she needs to review the nursing literature & theories.
- ✦ Literature is reviewed to know what has already been done in this selected areas of research.
- ✦ Review of nursing theories provides an opportunity for nurses researcher to plan a research problem to contribute towards either testing or development of a theory/conceptual model.

Delimiting the research topic:

- ✦ In this step, researcher proceeds from a general area of interest to more specific topic of research to conduct a study.
- ✦ For example, initially a researcher decide to conduct a study on female feticide; later in this stage researcher limits it to specific research topic *'a study on perception of women about causes & prevention of female feticide in selected rural communities of district mehsana, Gujrat'*.

Evaluating the research problem

- ✦ Once researcher is clear about the specific research problem, next the research problem must be carefully evaluated for its significance, researchability, & feasibility.
- ✦ Feasibility of the research problem should be evaluated for time, cost, availability of subjects & resources, administrative & peer support, ethical consideration, & researcher's competence & interest.

Formulating final statement of research problem:

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

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a. Declarative format:

In this format, a research problem is stated in declarative statement.

For example:

- 'A descriptive study on prevalence of bedsores among unconscious patients admitted in intensive care unit of Lions hospital, Mehsana'.
- 'A exploratory study on contributing factors of maternal mortality in selected rural communities of district Mehsana, Gujrat'.

b. Interrogative format:

In interrogative format, a research problem is stated in question form.

For example:

- ‘What is the influence of level of hemoglobin on pin site infection among patients with external skeletal fixators admitted in orthopedic wards of Lions hospital, Mehsana.
- ‘What is the effect of ginger or morning sickness on pregnant women in selected urban communities of district Mehsana, Gujrat.

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- ✦ The choice of either of these two types of format formulation of a research problem depends on the researcher's preference & institutional policies.
- ✦ Declarative format much popular among researchers.
- ✦ For the formulation of a research problem it is preferable if it fulfils the following features:
 - ✓ Research problem is clearly, precisely articulated.
 - ✓ It clearly states the variables, population, & research setting under study.
 - ✓ Variable are expressed in measurable terms.

Example of a well-formulated research problem “Effectiveness of planned teaching on the knowledge of staff nurses working in psychiatric unit regarding Physical Restraints for psychiatric patient in selected hospital of Vidharbha region”.

It is an example of declarative form of the statement of problem, where it is precisely & concisely stated & include most of the required components of a research statement, which are

- *Research study type:* Quasi-experiment
- *Variable(s):* it has two research variable i.e knowledge & planned teaching *Population:* Nurses working in selected psychiatric hospital
- *Research setting:* Psychiatric hospital

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Thank you

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