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Nurse Educators are Faced with Challenges in Carrying out Research in the Global Arena

G. Elaine Patterson

Ramapo College of New Jersey, USA

Abstract Content: Study protocols in some countries often lack the rigors of established standards of ethical research. This paper provides some strategies for nurses intending to carryout research globally where an IRB may or may not be in place. Researchers involved in international research must commit to maintaining rigor and ethics. The international center for nursing ethics, (ICNE) lends guidance to these nurses. Researchers are reminded to always adhere to broad general principles of research including respect for person, beneficence, justice, and contextual caring.

Preparing: Prior to carrying out any study the researcher should (a) ensure that there is an ethical viable reason for carrying out the study, (b) involve the community of interest in the design of the study (c) and identify who in the community will benefit most from the study.

Challenges: Carrying out research in a foreign country is not without challenges. Researchers will do well to anticipate some misunderstanding between the local community and the researcher. There may be limited resources, inability to sustain long term involvement, limited technical capacity, inability to obtain consents, and concerns of the locals about exploitation in the use of the data.

Summary: Engaging nurses from the community will garner cooperation from subjects and in gaining overall support for the study being done. It is the community leaders who will identify where the needs are, the uniqueness of the situation, assist in disseminating the information about the study, and obtaining consents. Community workers will also be the ones to help maintain confidentiality during the study and disseminate the findings afterwards.

Biography:

G. Elaine Patterson is a professor in the Ramapo College of New Jersey, USA. Her research interest is learning styles and critical thinking and Use of Electronic Portfolios. She has published many articles in different journals.