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Utilization of Research Findings in Practice: Professional Nurse's Perspectives

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Background: Nursing research is important in the nursing profession. It assists nurses to base nursing actions and decisions on evidence. The latter should inform actions that are taken and ensure that they are clinically appropriate and cost effective and will provide positive outcomes for patients. The purpose of the study was to identify and describe professional nurse's perspectives on the utilisation of research findings in practice and to make recommendations on how research findings can be implemented to improve patient care.

Methodology: Quantitative, descriptive research was utilised to determine professional nurse's (N=284) perspectives on the utilisation of research findings in practice. The study was conducted in two regional training hospitals in Mgungundlovu District using a non-probability sampling approach. A self-administered structured questionnaire was utilised to collect data which were analysed using SPSS version 22.

Results: The majority of respondents indicated that they lacked adequate knowledge of researches undertaken to improve patient and how findings should be applied in practice. Several barriers were also cited as impediments including work overload, time constraints, lack of computer skills and in-service training on research and its utilization and others.

Conclusion: It was concluded that there is a need to put more emphasis on research and its utilisation during nurse education and training so that on completion of training, professional nurses understand and appreciate the importance of utilising research findings to ensure effective patient care.

Biography:

TE Masango is Associate Professor from the University of South Africa (UNISA), department of Health Studies who is passionate about nursing education and its philosophies. She has been teaching for the past 32 years and has supervised 10 masters and 2 doctoral students to completion.