

Realities of Undertaking Research: The Experience of Novice Researchers

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Aim:

- Explore the differences between research as presented in research texts and the reality of the experience
 - novices researchers conducting their first collaborative study
- To act as a guide to others involved in research for the first time.

- A brief overview of the research study
- Successes and challenges encountered:
 - Ethical approval
 - Recruitment to the study
 - Data collection

Aim of the study

- To establish what advanced physical assessment skills are being used by cardiac nurses in clinical practice on completion of the 'Clinical Patient Assessment' module
- To explore the factors that influence the use of advanced physical assessment skills by the cardiac nurse in their clinical practice.

Clinical Patient Assessment module

Three month post registration degree module
designed to develop the assessment skills of:

- History taking
- Review of body systems
- Physical examination
- Systems included are cardiovascular, respiratory, abdomen, eyes and ears as well as musculoskeletal and central nervous system.

Methodological approach

A qualitative longitudinal descriptive study, spanning three years (2004-2007).

- Data collection was in two stages
 - the first stage was conducted six months after completion of the 'Clinical Patient Assessment' module.
 - The second stage was completed nine months after the 1st stage of data collection.
- Both stages used the data collection tools of:
 - individual interviews
 - non-participant observation of the clinical environment
 - subject self-reporting in a reflective log.

Successes and challenges encountered:

- Ethical approval
- Recruitment to the study
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Ethical approval

- Schools Ethics review panel
- Central Office of the Research Ethics Committee (COREC)
- Trust - Research and Development
- Cardiff University

Recruitment to the study

- the policy practice gap which impacted upon sample size;
- the reaction and motivation of nurses' to act as the study sample

The policy practice gap which impacted upon sample size

- Caunt (1996)
- Policy (DH 2000,2006, NAFW 2001, WAG 2005)
 - Cutcliffe and Bassett (1997)
- Stakeholders

Sample

Target population:

- Cardiac nurses who had successfully undertaken the Clinical assessment module and working within a cardiac environment.
- 4 cohorts = 140 students
 - 14 were cardiac nurses (10%)
 - 3 declined to participate
 - 3 moved outside the area of cardiac nursing
 - 1 had a leave of absence
- Resulted in 7 participants

The reaction and motivation of nurses' to act as the study sample

- Participants' familiarity with the researchers
- Implications of participating in the research process

Participants' familiarity with the researcher

- Power relationships (Ferguson et al 2006)
 - Lecturer/student/researcher
- Ethical issues (Clarke and McCann 2005)
 - Perceived coercion
 - Abuse of power
 - Breach of confidentiality
 - Lack of meaningful consent

Implications of participating in the research process

- Underestimated continual reassurance
 - Letter, consent and information sheet
- Motivators (Wray and Gates 1996)
 - Altruism
 - Trust in the research team
 - A positive perception of the importance of the research study
 - Reasons for Non involvement
 - Lack of time
 - Perceived intrusion by the researchers
- Learning opportunity (Bowman and Waite 2003)

Data collection

- Interviews
- Non participant observation
 - Reluctance to agree timing of observation
 - Cancelled appointments
 - A misconception that participants, instead of the environment were being observed
- Reflective logs
 - Completion and return of logs

Lessons learned

False assumptions

- Sufficient sized population
- Nurses would engage and contribute to the research process
- Pilot study
- Collaboration between lecturers and clinician would facilitate clinically based research.

Conclusion

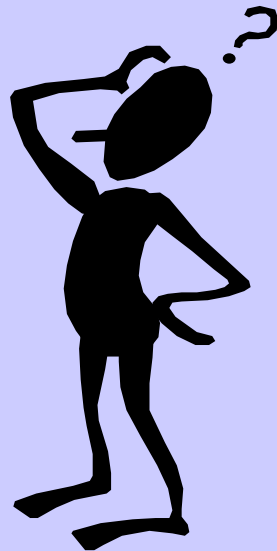
- Greater focus on reality of the interface between research activity and practice;
- Closing the gap between theory on new nursing roles, health policy and practice requires purposeful action and partnership working;
- Productive and fulfilling experience in terms of knowledge gained on the research process and the topic area.

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Thank you for listening

Any questions



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