Clinical Nurse Researcher Journal Club

Self-scheduling for hospital nurses: an attempt and its difficulties

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Introduction and Background

- Is problem statement/introduction clearly described?
- Is it relevant to the clinical topic selected, what are the objectives or aims of the research article?
- Is the research question or hypothesis clear. In the literature review: is it informative, is it research-based and does it support the purpose/problem.
- Are the references current and from respected sources?
- What study design and methods are used to collect the data? What is the sample size and characteristics, what statistics are utilized are they appropriate?
- What are the results & conclusions drawn by the author? Any implications for clinical practice? Can the conclusions be generalized to various settings and populations of people?

Description of the Study

- What was the purpose of the research?
- Why is the research being conducted & why is it considered significant/important?
- Were the research questions, objectives or hypothesis(es) clearly stated?

Literature Evaluation

- Does the literature review seem thorough & recent (within the last 5 years)?
- Does the content of the literature review relate directly to the research problem?

Sample

- Who were the subjects?
- Were the inclusion/exclusion criteria specified?
- How representative is the sample?
- Was there any selection bias evident in the sample selection?

Method and Design

- Describe the study design is it appropriate?
- How was the research conducted (the study procedure itself) & data collected?
- Were the subject's rights protected?
- Was IRBE approval obtained?

Analysis

- How were the data analyzed?
- Do the selected statistical tests appear appropriate?
- Were the results significant?

Results

- What were the findings of the study?
- Are the results presented in a clear and understandable way?
- How did the authors interpret the results?
- Were there any study limitations discussed?

Clinical Significance

- What were the implications of this study to clinical nursing practice?
- How does the study contribute to the body of knowledge?
- Could the study be replicated?
- What additional questions does the study raise?