



BARRIERS TO NURSES' PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT

The lack nurses participation in research remains a global challenge. The existence of barriers within individual nurses and systems in the workplace can hinder nurses' participation in conducting research. So far there has been no research regarding barriers to nurse involvement in research at the Sint Elisabeth hospital in Semarang. Objective: This study aimed to evaluate barriers to nurse participation in research at Sint Elisabeth hospital Semarang. Method: A descriptive study was conducted involving 384 nurses at Elisabeth hospital Semarang and were selected by convenience sampling. Data was collected using a questionnaire on barriers to nurses' participation in research. Descriptive analysis was carried out in this study. Results: The mean barriers for research participation related to resources and perceived personal relevance of nurses were 3.31 and 2.51 (possible range 1-5), respectively. The highest barrier related to resources is the lack of incentive support or rewards for nurses who conduct research and the lack of financial or other resources to facilitate research activities. The highest barrier regarding perceived personal relevance is the absence of a topic or research idea. Conclusions: Barriers in nurses participation in research related to resources in the hospital were more felt by nurses than barrier related personal relevance.

Keywords: barrier; hospital; nurses; participation; research

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INTRODUCTION

The participation of clinical nurses in nursing research is still a global challenge because the number of nurses involved is still minimal (Syme & Stiles, 2012). The existence of the nursing law has made nurses in Indonesia start to develop nursing research (Gede Juanamasta et al., 2021). The national nurse organization in Indonesia strongly supports the implementation of research carried out by nurses by providing assistance. research funds every year (Gede Juanamasta et al., 2021) Nursing research is a scientific process carried out to validate and improve existing theories and generalize new theories so that they can influence nursing practice both directly and indirectly (Curto et al., 2012). Nursing research is very important for the development of nursing science and is the basis for implementing the evidence-based nursing practice (Roll et al., 2013). Actually, research has been introduced to nurses when they enter higher education. Nurses in Indonesia perceive that there are certain topics that are important to do (Lusmilasari et al., 2020). This shows that there is a need for Indonesian nurses for the results of research in the field of nursing and its importance nurses to conduct research. However, the existence of barriers originating from the hospital where

they work and from individuals that nurses feel when conducting research can hinder nurses' participation in conducting research (Nkrumah et al., 2018)

It is very important to know the barriers felt by nurses to conducting research so that nurse participation in conducting research increases. Previous research shows that the participation of nurses in conducting research in several countries such as China, Korea, Ghana, and Italy varies from 21-64% (Amicucci et al., 2022; Nkrumah et al., 2018; Oh, 2008; Oluwatosin, 2014; Tsai, 2000). Previous research in teaching hospitals in United States and in Spain found that lack of time in conducting research was the main barrier. nurses who can hinder nurses' participation in conducting research (Hagan & Walden, 2017; Ramón et al., 2022). Sint Elisabeth Hospital Semarang Indonesia is a private, non-teaching hospital with the largest number of nurses compared to other health workers. The hospital strongly supports the involvement of nurses in research so that the quality of nursing services provided to patients is maintained. So far, research regarding the involvement of nurses in research at Sint Elisabeth Semarang, Indonesia Hospital has not been carried out. This study aims to evaluate barriers to nurse participation in research at Sint Elisabeth hospital Semarang.

METHOD

This study used a descriptive design. This research was approved by the Sint Elisabeth Hospital Semarang ethical commission (number 041/EA/KEPK-RSE/VIII/2023). The population of this study were nurses at Sint Elisabeth Hospital Semarang. The study used Slovin formula to determine the sample size of 384 nurses, with amount of error to be allowed 1%. Respondents were selected using convenience sampling method. The inclusion criteria for this study were nurses who were willing to be respondents and had a minimum work experience of one year, while the exclusion criteria were nurses who had the position of director of nursing and were studying at the time the research was conducted. Data on barriers to nurse participation in research were collected using a questionnaire on barriers to nurse participation in research which had been tested for validity and reliability (Cronbach alpha for barrier resources of 0.79 and barrier for personal relevance of 0.72) (Hagan & Walden, 2017). There are 9 items related to resource barriers and 6 items related to personal relevance barriers. Responses to these items were presented in a 5-point Likert-type scale format with the options, strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree, assigned a score of 1 through 5, respectively. Respondent characteristics in the form of age, gender, length of work, marital status and level of education were collected in this study. Categorical data was displayed in the form of frequency and percentage, while numerical data was displayed in the form of mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows that majority of respondents was female (89.8%), married (83.1%), and had diploma education level. Mean age and length of work were 37,15 and 15.44 respectively. Table 2 shows that mean barriers for research participation related to resources and perceived personal relevance of nurses were 3.31 and 2.51, respectively. The highest barrier related to resources is the lack of incentive support or rewards for nurses who conduct research and the lack of funds to facilitate research activities. The highest barrier regarding perceived personal relevance is the absence of a topic or research idea.

Table 1.
Respondent characteristics (n= 384)

Respondent characteristics	f (%)	Mean ± SD
Age (year)		37.15 ± 7.65
Gender		
Male	39(10.2)	
Female	345(89.8)	
Length of work (year)		15.44 ± 9.08
Married		
Single	65(16.9)	
Married	319(83.1)	
Education level		
Diploma	217(56.5)	
Bachelor	165(43.0)	
Master	2(0.5)	

Table 2.
Barriers to nurses' participation in research (n= 384)

Barriers	Mean ± SD
Research resources	3.31 ± 0.63
Lack of time to do research	3.42 ± 0.85
Lack of incentive/reward to do research	3.54 ± 0.82
Lack of availability of experience nursing research mentors	3.31 ± 0.92
Lack of research training opportunities	3.37 ± 0.87
Lack of financial or other resources to facilitate research	3.54 ± 0.86
Lack of research knowledge and skill	3.31 ± 0.92
Lack of institutional nursing research infrastructure	3.27 ± 0.84
Lack of leadership support	2.91 ± 0.86
Lack of accessibility to a nursing research council	3.13 ± 0.87
Personal relevance	2.51 ± 0.51
Research is not very interesting or valuable to me	2.36 ± 0.73
I do not have ideas for research project topics	3.09 ± 0.84
I feel intimidated by research	2.29 ± 0.73
My training and educational background do not qualify me to conduct research	2.89 ± 0.89
Research is not relevant to nursing practice	2.23 ± 0.63
Nursing research is not my job	2.21 ± 0.65

DISCUSSION

This study evaluated barriers to nurse participation in research. The study showed mean barriers related to resources tend to be higher than barriers related to perceived personal relevance of nurses. Mean barrier related to resources is above 3.00 with a possible score range of 1-5, while the barrier related to personal relevance is still below the value 3.00. It showed that the barrier related to existing resources in the hospital was more felt by nurses, while barriers related to personal relevance were not really felt by nurses. The higher the barrier score to nurse participation in research, the higher the barriers felt by nurses. In accordance with previous research, the tendency for barriers to nurses participation in research that are more felt are barriers related to existing resources in the hospital (Hagan & Walden, 2017).

Nursing research is the important thing for the development of nursing science and is the basis of the evidence-based nursing practice implementation (Roll et al., 2013). Thus, nurse participation in research is very essential to the expansion of nursing science and improved care for patients. The nurses participation in research challenges encountered by nurses include balancing patient care demands with research, adjusting to fluctuating number of staff

and patient, working with interdisciplinary personnel, and feeling comfortable with their knowledge of the research process (Roll et al., 2013).

This research was conducted on nurses in hospitals with mean age of 37 years and mean work period of 17 years. The majority of them are female, married, and have a nursing diploma. The previous study explained that nurse education level could influence nurse participation in research, while the gender, age, and work duration could not. (Nkrumah et al., 2018). Educational qualification of nurses was found to be associated with participation in clinical research indicating that the higher the educational level the more the nurse is research-conscious (Nkrumah et al., 2018). Knowledge and skill in research that nurses gain while studying can help nurses to carry out research (Hagan & Walden, 2017). However, the study did not evaluate the influence of individual characteristics of nurse participation in research.

This study evaluated barriers related to resources in the workplace in the form of time, funds, rewards, leadership support, infrastructure, committees, training, knowledge and skills. In accordance with previous research, lack of knowledge, skills, competence in conducting research, limited time, limited funds, lack of support from the organization where they work can influence nurses to get involved in research (D'Arrietta et al., 2022; Hagan & Walden, 2017; Nkrumah et al., 2018). This study also found the main barriers related to workplace conditions or available resources. Nurses felt that a lack of incentives or appreciation for conducting research and also a lack of financial support for conducting research are the main barrier to conduct research. Different with previous research that lack of time was the main barrier for nurses conducting research (Amicucci et al., 2022; Hagan & Walden, 2017). Lack of time to conduct research was found to be the second barrier in this study. Time and funds are two very important things in carrying out a research activity. Not a small amount of funds and time are needed to carry out research. This difference results may occur because this study was conducted in a private, non-teaching hospital, where funds must come from the individual nurses themselves. Different hospital may have different recourses. Nurses must be able to manage their time well in order to carry out research, and find additional sources of funding to facilitate the implementation of research activities. Nurses should spend sufficient time to read many articles required for research. Sufficient time to read articles was associated with nurses' participation in research (Nkrumah et al., 2018).

The study found that lack of leadership support as the lowest barrier of resources for nurse participation in research. Different with previous study that lack of leadership support as second highest barrier of nurse participation in research (Nkrumah et al., 2018). The leadership support is very important to make the nurse participating in the research. The nurse will have the comfortable feeling when conducting the research if there is support from the leader. This study also evaluated barriers related to nurses' personal relevance including nurses' interest in research, the existence of research ideas, feelings of intimidation by research, the role of training and education as a provision for research, the feeling that research is very relevant to nursing practice and the feeling that research is part of the nurse's work. The study found that no idea for a research topic was the main barrier in terms of personal relevance. In accordance with previous research which found that lack of ideas was the main obstacle for nurses to carry out research (Hagan & Walden, 2017). However, research topics can come from everyday conditions encountered by nurses. The longer nurses work, the more they can see various phenomena that occur in the hospital. Nurses must also take time to conduct literature searches so that ideas related to research topics can be found.

The study found that nurses who considered research was not part of their job scored the lowest on the barrier related to personal relevance. This indicates something good because nurses realize that they will need to balance their time between research and providing nursing care. The finding implies that many nurses interpret research to be part of their professional profile, which could influence their motivation to do the research even if time was not available (Nkrumah et al., 2018). Although the sample size in this study is big enough, there are some limitations in this study. Firstly, this is the descriptive study that give the description about the variable. Second, the generalization of this study only for nurses in the hospital where the respondent work.

CONCLUSION

Barriers in nurses participation in research related to resources in the hospital were more felt by nurses than barrier related personal relevance. The highest barrier related to resources is the lack of incentive support or rewards for nurses who conduct research and the lack of financial or other resources to facilitate research activities. The highest barrier regarding perceived personal relevance is the absence of a topic or research idea. There needs to be a system in hospitals that supports controlling barriers to nurse participation in research.

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