

INSTRUCTIONS: Review your article and answer the following questions

Research Problem and Purpose

1. What is the identified research problem and purpose?
2. Is the problem significant and relevant to nursing? Please explain.

Literature Review

1. Are relevant previous studies identified and described?
2. Are the references current? What is the range of publication dates?
3. Is a summary of the current knowledge provided? The summary needs to explain what is known and not known about the research problem.

Research Objectives, Questions, or Hypotheses

1. Identify the research question and/or hypotheses. Are they clearly and concisely expressed?

Study Variables

1. Are the major variables or concepts identified and defined operationally? List and explain each.
2. What demographic variables are examined in the study?
3. Did demographic variables influence the research results?
4. Where there any qualitative aspects to this study?

Study Design

1. Is the research design clearly addressed? Identify the specific design of the study?
2. Does the study include a treatment or intervention?
3. Are the extraneous variables identified or controlled?

Sample, Population and Setting

1. Is the target population to which the findings will be generalized defined?
2. Are the inclusion and exclusion sample criteria described?
3. Did the researcher indicate the method used to obtain the sample?
4. Are there any potential biases in the sampling method?
5. Identify the sample size.
6. Was institutional review board approval obtained?
7. Is the setting used in the study typical of clinical settings?

Measurement Methods

1. What are the measurement strategies described by the author? (questionnaire, survey, physiological measures, etc.).
2. Did the author discuss reliability and validity?
3. What tool was used to evaluate reliability?
4. If an instrument or part of an instrument was developed for the study, is the instrument development described?

Data Collection

1. How were the study procedures implemented and data collected? Is the data collection process clearly defined? Explain.
2. Is the data collection process conducted in a consistent manner?

Data Analyses

1. Are the data analyses procedures clearly described?
2. What statistical analyses are included in the research report?
3. Are the results presented in an understandable way?
4. Are tables and figures used to synthesize and emphasize certain findings? If so, were they helpful in evaluating the findings?

Interpretation of Findings

1. What is the researcher's interpretation of the findings?
2. Which findings are consistent with those expected?
3. Did the research identify important study limitations? What are they?
4. How did the researcher generalize the findings?
5. What implications do they have for nursing practice?
6. Would you use these findings in nursing practice? Explain

Rate the Evidence

What Level of Evidence is this article considered (for assistance refer to the Sentara Evidence Based Practice Guidelines)?