

Components of Research Questions

Name

Course Name

University Affiliation

Instructor

Date

Research questions provide a fundamental step in directing and guiding researchers to learn about a medical topic. A nursing research question should not only be good but also guide your thesis, dissertation, or research paper. The researchers use design science research (DSR) as the basis for posing research questions. The DSR helps researchers craft the research's scope, characterize its variables, thesis statement, research methods, and communicate their findings, discussions, and conclusions. It is vital for researchers in the medical field to equip themselves with the knowledge of the research question format (Kamper, 2020). As a researcher, if you cannot define in which research question format your research question falls, you may as well have failed to craft a quality research paper. The type of research question format has critical importance to your study. Quality, clinically essential research starts with a good research question that corresponds to the required format.

Research Questions in Nursing Clinical Practice

The type of format a researcher chooses will determine the study questions they will use to craft their research paper. The research question format is categorized as quantitative and qualitative. The qualitative research question format explores the experience and meaning of the study, while the quantitative research question format employs empirical evidence to explain a research study. The qualitative research question format is also referred to as phenomenology. It is a research that studies what people experience during phenomena and focuses the study on their experiences (Bougiouka et al., 2019). "What is the experience of patients who have undergone a kidney transplant under intensive care unit?" is a perfect example of phenomenology.

On the other hand, the quantitative research question format is classified into correlation, comparative, and experimental. Correlation is the type of research question format that measures,

assesses, and understands the relationship between two statistical variables without influence from an external variable. For example, “Is there a relationship between marriage and cancer?” Furthermore, a comparative research question format is a quantitative study question that explores differences among two or more variables across different research subjects (Donnelly & Wiechula, 2017). “What role does nursing education play in clinical placement and how does this affect health care quality?” is an example of a comparative research question. Finally, the experimental research question explores scientific characteristics between two variables whereby one variable is used as a constant to measure the characteristics of the second set when it is varied. An example of an experimental research topic is, "What is the quality of life among the elderly in terms of depressive situations, the performance of day-to-day activities and mood swings between those who participate in physical exercises versus those who do not?" In quantitative research, one is expected to collect facts and evidence to refute and support a theory.

Independent and Dependent Variables, Population and Testability

A research question is used in constructing a hypothesis of the research paper. A hypothesis is simply a prediction or an educated guess of how the research variables will behave under the study phenomena (Lobiondo-Wood, 2021). A hypothesis can be written as a question or a statement. Either way, it should specify the testability and the population that the research covers. Additionally, it should show case dependent and independent variables (G. Trefry, 2020). We can use the experimental research question format above to map out its variables, population, and testability. The research's population scope is the elderly, probably the least been of age 60. The testability of the study is to explore the quality of life among the elderly who do and do not participate in physical exercises. Furthermore, the independent variables consist of characteristics used to measure the quality of life: depressive situations, the performance of day-

to-day activities, and mood swings. On the other hand, the dependent variables will include the elderly who engage in physical exercises or not.

Recent studies implicate that the elderly worldwide succumb to the low quality of life they spend during their golden age. The above research is meant to design a universal physical activities program that will increase the quality of life among the elderly. The elderly will be monitored while engaging in various physical activities, and later, the researchers will draw scientific findings, discussions, and conclusions at the end of the trial. The researchers will use the experimental results to design a model that will help improve the quality of life among the elderly through performing recommended physical activities.

Conclusion

A researcher should keep in mind the most crucial point while researching is which research question format their research adheres to. The researcher must note that whether the research question format is a correlation, comparative, experimental, or phenomenology, they call for different study methods, variables, and analysis. A research question that does not correspond to its research question format will have unclear findings, discussions, and analyses. Your audience will find it hard to comprehend your research as it will be impossible to interpret your results. Knowing types of research question format will give a researcher an upper hand in crafting relevant supportive evidence-based research. This is only possible if the researcher correctly defines and states the research question and matches it with the corresponding format.

References

- Bougioukas, K., G. Pertsikapa, M., & Haidich, A. (2019). Retrieved from <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1573&context=tqr>.
- Donnelly, F., & Wiechula, R. (2017). An example of qualitative comparative analysis in nursing research. *Nurse Researcher*, 20(6), 6-11. Doi: 10.7748/nr2013.07.20.6.6.e332.
- G. Trefry, R. (2020). How do I write a good hypothesis statement? - LibAnswers. Retrieved from <https://apus.libanswers.com/writing/faq/2371>.
- Kamper, S. (2020). Types of Research Questions: Descriptive, Predictive, or Causal. *Journal Of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy*, 50(8), 468-469. Doi: 10.2519/jospt.2020.0703.
- Lobiondo-Wood, G. (2021). *Study Guide for Nursing Research*. [S.L.]: Elsevier - Health Science.