



Research priorities in Nursing

Prepared

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Introduction

JNC has conducted a series of activities during 2005 and 2006 to identify research priorities for nursing in Jordan. These activities included two national workshops and several expert meetings. Such activities are considered an important step by the JNC to advance the nursing profession in Jordan. JNC believes that research-based practice is the key to quality of care provided to all Jordanians and a step forward to meeting the national health strategy in general and the national nursing strategy for the year 2006-2010 in specific which highlighted the importance of developing national research agenda.

The national research priorities identified in this document are consistent with the wider health care agenda of Jordan and are based on;

- The national strategic directions of the country and the operational plans to meet the Millennium Development Goals MDG's.
- The results from the strong methodology used by the JNC to ascertain the research priorities.
- The available national and international literature related to research priorities.

Methodology

To identify research priorities in nursing, three resource areas were used; the consensus of nursing experts, the National Strategy for nursing for the year 2006-2010 and the current national and international literature on nursing research

1. Consensus of Nursing Experts

Two national workshops were conducted by the JNC to explore the nursing leaders' views regarding research priorities. Nursing experts from different settings such as universities, hospitals, primary health care centers, MOH, MOHE and non profit organizations attended the 2 workshops. A total of 35 participants were briefed on main objectives of workshops, national health priorities and MDG's. In the first workshop, participants were divided into 3 groups each focusing on one of the three areas; clinical practice, management and education to identify main problems and agree among them on the most important ones. Representatives from the three groups shared their ideas with the main group to reach consensus. The purpose of the second workshop was to validate the list of priorities identified in the first

workshop and introduced participants to Jordan's strategic goals to improve the well-being of all citizens in the social and economic domains since both play a very important role in determining health of the nation. Participants were able to expand the list of research priorities to include the psych-social, economic determinants of health.

2. National Strategy for Nursing 2006- 2010

The JNC developed its national strategy for nursing in Jordan for the year 2006-2010 which consisted of 8 strategic areas including research. The strategic goal for nursing research and development was to "to create a culture among nurses in various health care settings in order to advance the nursing profession and enhance quality of care provided for all Jordanians"

To achieve this strategic goal, 4 strategies were developed:

- Develop a regulatory system for research among all institutions
- Strengthen research abilities of all nurses
- Enhance quality of nursing research to contribute to sustainable development and national policy
- Develop partnership with centers of excellence in research and development at the national, regional and international levels.

Following the development of the national strategy, an action plan was developed to translate objectives into activities. Activities included research in the areas of nursing education, practice and service delivery and human resource development.

3. Research priorities in the national and international literature.

The review of the literature emphasized the value of research as a central concept in setting research priorities. Research priorities must be specific and relevant to health system burdens and needs of the population. In addition, the value of research emphasizes the importance of consulting key people and agencies when setting national priorities.

Review of the literature included examination of ICN and WHO documents for research priorities in addition to various nursing research agenda in different countries. ICN has identified nursing research priorities in two broad areas that address the phenomena of interest to nursing. These are **Health and Illness and Delivery of Care**

Services. Nursing research in health and illness focuses on a number of areas including health promotion, prevention of illness, control of symptoms, living with chronic conditions and enhancing quality of life; caring for clients experiencing changes in their health and illness; assessing and monitoring client problems; providing and testing nursing care interventions and measuring the outcomes of care. The recommended nursing research priorities relating to Health and Illness include issues such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, chronic illness, infection control, women's health and mental health.

Nursing research priorities in Delivery of Care Services focus on quality and cost effectiveness of care, community based care, nursing workforce and health care reform. Areas for nursing research include impact of nursing interventions on client outcomes, evidence-based nursing practice, primary health care, home care, quality of nurses' work life, retention, satisfaction with work, impact of reform on health policy, program planning and evaluation, impact upon equity and access to nursing care and its effects on nursing, and the financing of health care.

Analysis of nursing research at the national level revealed problems in quantity and quality of research produced by nurses. Most of research is conducted in the academic settings for the purposes of academic promotion, Health system research are conducted by international donors for implementation and evaluation purposes.

Nursing Research priorities

Research priorities were classified in three main categories; Health and Illness, Professional Roles and Psychosocial-economical determinants of Health reflected in the MDG's.

1. Health and Illness

The health and illness category focuses on challenges related to chronic and acute illnesses facing Jordan and health promotion and prevention.

Research Priorities According to Health and Illness

Chronic and acute illnesses	Health promotion and Prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals reaction to chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension and asthma• Gender issues related to chronic illnesses• Palliative care and symptom management (e.g. pain, dyspnea, fatigue)• Impact of Cardiovascular diseases on population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental well-being• Promoting healthy lifestyle practices• Screening for acute and chronic illnesses and disabilities• Rehabilitation; patient education; self-management• Health needs/issues of vulnerable groups as women, children, handicapped and elderly• Health disparities• Accidents prevention.• Environmental health /Occupational health.• Counseling.

2. Professional Roles

Research priorities according to professional roles of nurses are summarized according to clinical care/practice, management and education priorities.

Research Priorities According to Professional Roles

Clinical care priorities	Management priorities	Education Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes of care delivery • Staffing issues in practice • Communication in clinical areas • Quality of care • Nurses practice roles • Advanced/specialized roles • Ethical issues • Physical care problems • Nurses attitudes towards specific groups • Work environment • Emergency preparedness. • Models for translation/implementation of evidence-based practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and retention • Shortage of nurses • Role of nurse managers • Leadership roles • Health and safety in practice • Nursing contribution to health policy and decision making • Quality assurance and standards of care • Information systems and technologies • Participation of nurses in health planning and policy 	<p>Innovations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New approaches • Use of instructional technology, including new approaches to laboratory/simulated learning • Flexible curriculum designs • Community-driven models for curriculum development • Educational systems and infrastructures • Student/teacher learning partnerships • Clinical teaching models • Teaching evidence-based practices • New models for teacher preparation and faculty development <p>Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality improvement processes • Program evaluation models • Student and teacher experiences in schools of nursing • Nursing education innovations, including facilitators and barriers to innovation and reform • Best practices in teaching and learning • Grading, testing and evaluation of students, faculty and curricula

		Development of the Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best practices in teaching and learning /evidence based-learning• Nursing education database development
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3. Research priorities related to Determinants of Health reflected in the MDG's

Research priorities related to determinants of health were based on national socio-economic transition and reform of the social, economic structure and the challenges facing the health care system in Jordan. Priorities in this area were also based on the Jordan's operational plan for the MDG's with focus on eliminating poverty and issues related to sustainable development.

Research priorities related to Determinants of Health

Psychosocial Determinants	Economic Determinants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximizing the physical, mental, and social functioning of Jordanians and improving their quality of life• Abuse and neglect across age groups and in various settings including workplace.• Impact of social transition on family and societal roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact of poverty on the health of population• Impact of health insurance and costs of health care on vulnerable populations• Poverty and unemployment• Contribution of nurses to sustainable development

Classifications of research priorities

Research Priorities addressed by nursing experts, national strategy and available literature were then categorized as high and low priority areas

High priority areas

1. National health strategies including.
 - Insurance policies.
 - Quality of services/care.
 - Mental well-being of all age groups
2. Awareness of emerging health risks and their impact on the health of population
3. Cost effectiveness of health and nursing care/interventions.
 - Outcomes of care delivery
 - Staffing issues in practice
 - Communication in clinical areas

4. Empowerment of nurses/contribution to health policy development and decision making.
5. Nursing shortage including immigration, recruitment and retention
6. Best practices in teaching and learning

Moderate priority

1. Human resource development.
2. Human rights
3. Health of vulnerable groups
4. Gaps between education and services needs.

Low priority

1. Sustainability of programs.
2. Job satisfaction.
3. Burnout.
4. Management skills

Strategies to Achieve Research Priorities

Nursing experts in the 2 workshops decided that the following are strategies in nursing research that need to address to support nursing research nationally and internationally and build and sustain the knowledge base for nursing practice. These strategies include;

National Strategies

- Support and encourage nurses in capacity building related to nursing research such as by developing research support and advice, research-related data-bases, research education, research dissemination and utilization, and promoting cooperation in nursing research.
- Collaborate with national and international organizations and centers of excellence such as MOH, MOHE, ICN, WHO, NGOs universities to ensure quality of nursing research.
- Develop and promote the utilization of the Internet as a strategy to enhance international communication among nurse researchers, increase access to documents, and provide access to an international pool of expert nurse researchers.
- Promote opportunities for nurse researcher to publish in international journals, encourage editors to include international membership, assist Jordanian authors whose first language may not be English to publish in refereed and indexed journals.
- Establish Jordanian Nursing Journals that are internationally indexed and refereed.
- Establish systems of evidence based practice and knowledge-driven health care. Nurses have a professional obligation to society to provide care that is constantly reviewed, researched and validated which can be achieved through *National center for research*.
- Encourage adoption of various research types and design to enhance quality of research such as action research, experimental research and applied research.

Strategies for the Jordanian Nursing Council

- Provide opportunities for capacity building for nurses
- Provide funding and financial support for research projects.
- Dissemination of research findings by establishing a high quality journal..
- Develop web page for all institutions including researchers and their interest/
Bank for researchers and their interests.
- Provide researchers with data and information for researchers including national registry records.
- Develop guidelines for proposals review and evaluation

Other activities and actions that can be implemented by the JNC in collaboration with its partners are the detailed action plan as part of the national Nursing Strategy developed by JNC for the years 2006-2010.