

Research: An Integral Part of Your Practice.

How Research can be used to gather evidence to inform your practice?

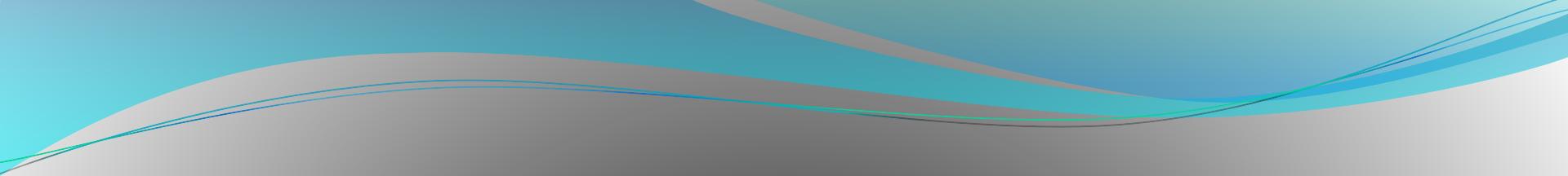
Expectations

- We will learn about the best practices and useful pieces of advice
- We will try to inspire and motivate ourselves
- We will create a foundation for the quest of knowledge
- Participate actively and learn through practice

Disclaimers

- No one size fits all
- No recipe for successful research
- No clear success or failures defined
 - Not for everyone
 - It is not one or the other
 - Quest for learning may trade off other activities

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How Does the Electron move around the Atom?

Research: an Integral Part of Your Practice

Research is undertaken within most professions. More than a set of skills, research is a way of thinking examining critically the various aspects of your day-to-day professional work understanding and formulating guiding principles that govern a particular procedure, and developing and testing new theories that contribute to the advancement of your practice and profession. It is a habit of questionning what you do, and a systematic examination of clinical observations to explain and find answers for what you perceive with a view to instituting appropriate changes for a more effective professional service.

Let us take some disciplines as examples:

- How many patients do I see everyday?
- What are some of the most common conditions prevalent among my patients?
- What are the causes of these conditions?
- Why do some people have a particular condition whereas others do not?
- What are the health needs of the community?
- What are the benefits of this programme to the community?
- How do I demonstrate the effectiveness of my service?
- Why do some people use the service while others do not?
- How effective is the service?
- How can the service be improved?

What is the best strategy to promote the sale of a particular product?

How many salespersons do I need?

What is the effect of a particular advertising campaign on the sale of this product?

How satisfied are the consumers with this product?

How much are consumers prepared to spend on this product?

What do consumers like or dislike about this product?

What type of packaging do consumers prefer for this product?

What training do the salespersons need to promote the sale of this product?

What are the attributes of a good salesperson?

What are my clients most common presenting problems?

What are their most common underlying problems?

What is the socioeconomic background of my clients?

Why am I successful in certain cases and not in others?

What resources are available in the community to help a client with a particular need?

What intervention strategies are appropriate for this problem?

How satisfied are my clients with my services?

A Supervisor, administrator or manager of an agency

How many people are coming to my agency?

What are the socio-economic-demographic characteristics of my clients?

How many cases in a day can a worker effectively handle?

Why do some people use the service while others do not?

How effective is the service?

What are the most common needs of the clients that come to this agency?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the service?

How satisfied are the clients with the service?

How can I improve the service of my clients?

As A Professional

Which is the most effective intervention for a particular problem?

What causes X or what are the effects of Y?

What is the relationship between two phenomena?

How do I measure the self-esteem of my clients?

How do I ascertain the validity of my questionnaire?

What is the pattern of programme adoption in the community?

Which is the best way of finding out community attitudes towards an issue?

Which is the best way to find out the effectiveness of a particular treatment?

How can I select an unbiased sample?

A Service Provider

How effective is the service I am receiving?

Am I getting value for money?

How well trained are the service providers?

Research is one of the ways to help answer such questions objectively.

Research: A Way to gather Evidence for your practice

Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) is the delivery of services based upon research evidence about their effectiveness, the service providers' clinical judgment as to the suitability and appropriateness of the service for a client, and the client's own preferences as to acceptance of the service.

The concept of EBP encourages professionals and other decision-makers to use evidence regarding the effectiveness of an intervention in conjunction with the characteristics and circumstance of a client and their professional judgment to determine the appropriateness of an intervention when providing a service to a client.

In this age of accountability, you as a practitioner, a learner, a researcher, and as a professional must be accountable to your clients as well as to your profession.

It is as part of this accountability that you need to demonstrate the effectiveness of the service (S) you provide.

Evidence-based practice for researchers concentrates on the types, quality, and conduct of research studies that gather evidence that may be informative for clinical practice or clinical decision making. It also involves the process of gathering and synthesizing scientific evidence from various sources and translating it to be applied to clinical practice.

Research is one of the ways of collecting accurate, sound reliable data about the effectiveness of your interventions, thereby providing you with evidence of its effectiveness. As a service provider, a professional, you are expected to use techniques and procedures developed by research methodologists to consolidate, improve, develop, refine and advance clinical aspects of our practice to serve our clients better.

« Works are of value only if
they give rise to better
ones. »

Alexander Von Humboldt

References

- Second language Research Methods
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Thank You