

# **Using Simulation as an Investigative Methodology in Researching Competencies of Clinical Social Work Practice: A Scoping Review**

## **1.1 Motivation/purpose/aims/hypothesis:**

The purpose of this scoping review was to systematically search and summarize the current state of social work literature, in which simulation was used as an investigative methodology in researching practice competencies

## **1.2 Contribution:**

The authors focus on competencies related to clinical practice offer suggestions for when to use SBR for research on clinical social work practice, which addresses the needs of individuals, families, couples and groups affected by life changes.

## **1.3 Methodology:**

This scoping review utilized Arksey and O'Malley's five-stage framework, enhanced by Levac et al., to comprehensively synthesize existing knowledge on the use of simulation-based data for researching practice competencies. Following PRISMA-ScR guidelines, the methodology involved identifying research questions, selecting relevant studies, applying inclusion/exclusion criteria, charting data, and finally, collating and summarizing results.

## **1.4 Conclusion:**

This scoping review synthesized 24 studies from the social work literature that employed simulation as an investigative methodology for studying clinical social work competencies. Simulation-based research (SBR) emerges as a promising approach for understanding the nuances of clinical competencies and how practitioners integrate knowledge, values, and skills in real-world scenarios. The proximity to practice in SBR findings enhances their relevance, providing valuable insights to support clinical social workers.

## **2.1 First Limitation:**

The scoping review acknowledges the potential omission of relevant studies due to time and resource constraints, focusing primarily on peer-reviewed articles available in the university library databases. Exclusions encompass dissertations, books, book chapters, grey literature, and non-English publications.

## **2.2 Second Limitation:**

The review did not assess the quality of each empirical study, as its primary goal was to offer a snapshot of the current literature on simulation-based research in social work, not to critically appraise research quality. Rigor was maintained through multiple independent reviewers in each phase and adherence to the PRISMA-ScR checklist, aiming for consistency, transparency, and bias mitigation.

## **3 Synthesis:**

Future endeavors should explore SBR's potential in enhancing practice support, emphasizing ongoing engagement and investment to advance the literature on clinical social work.