

## Estimation of Existing Research: A Quantitative Exploratory Evidence Synthesis of Analyses of Nursing Journals

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### Abstract

**Background:** The profession of Nursing had grown across a range of application in liaison with almost all interprofessional disciplines and the role of nurses in healthcare is increasingly been recognized in a multidisciplinary collaborative framework. **Objective:** To critically summarize and identify the results of analyses of Nursing journals, published in journals indexed in PubMed. **Methods:** A systematic overview and quantitative analysis of 46 published reviews was performed to identify relevant themes in nursing profession. Types of journals (nursing, other), between-journal comparison of articles, number of authors, types of methodological approach (descriptive or analytical) and domains of profession (practice, education, research and administration). All analyses were done descriptively using numbers and percentiles and were computed using SPSS version 17 for Windows (SPSS Inc, IL, Chicago). **Results:** Nursing journals (N=40) had published more articles than other journals (N=6). International Journal of Nursing Studies had published the greatest number of such articles (N=5), followed by Journal of

Advanced Nursing (N=4), and Image Journal of Nursing Scholar (N=3). Articles on research (N=30) were much more than practice (N=8). **Conclusion:** The present study found that larger number of reviews and analyses of nursing journals were published in nursing journals, which confirmed the specificity of source of evidence retrieval for better decision-making.

**Keywords:** Nursing Journals; Nursing Research; Reporting Trend; Publication Trend.

### Introduction

The profession of Nursing had grown across a range of application in liaison with almost all interprofessional disciplines and the role of nurses in healthcare is increasingly been recognized in a multidisciplinary collaborative framework [1,2]. Since nurses are inherent team members involved in multidisciplinary treatment decision making [3], there is a strong need for upgrading and updating current knowledge base in nursing education not only in multidisciplinary but also in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary models [4].

The educational models now have evolved themselves into a paradigm of evidence-based and/or Evidence-informed nursing (EIN) [5], which warranted immediate widespread dissemination and integration of current research evidence into clinical Nursing practice. In this context, the leaders' role of Nursing journals in the advancement of professional nursing and EIN [6] is obvious from a multidimensional perspective. First, journals demand types of research conducted by authors [7]; second, they facilitate an interactive learning experience for editors, reviewers and authors; third, they provide a medium for knowledge translation and

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knowledge development [8]; and finally, they serve as platforms of evidence upon which researchers and practitioners look forward to obtain relevant information [9].

There is an ever-growing urgent need for analyses of nursing journals since there is a steady growth in number of both general and specialty nursing journals [10].

#### *Objective of the Study*

The objective of this paper was to critically summarize and identify the results of analyses of Nursing journals, published in journals indexed in PubMed.

### **Methodology**

#### *Study Design*

A systematic overview and quantitative analysis of published reviews.

#### *Search Methods*

Two reviewers performed an independent blinded search of PubMed using specific search strategy and they independently extracted and synthesized the data from the selected studies using a structured checklist. At all stages of the review process, all disagreements were solved by mutual consensus

before proceeding to the subsequent stages of the review.

#### *Search Strategy and Selection Criteria*

A thorough literature search of PubMed using keywords "Nursing[Title] AND journals[Title]" were used in the search tab, for obtaining all types of articles published in English, with available abstracts indexed until October 2012.

#### *Data Extraction and Synthesis*

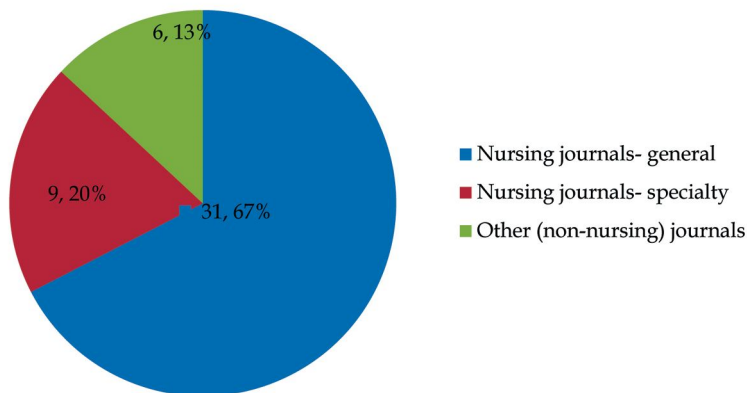
The content of selected abstracts and full text articles was examined for their attributes of analysis of Nursing journals, as per the structured checklist.

#### *Main Findings*

Our initial search retrieved 58 citations and after excluding 12 articles which were not on Nursing journals (N=3) and some were commentaries (N=9) without qualitative and/or quantitative summaries. 46 studies<sup>11-56</sup> were deemed eligible in the final scrutinized list which was descriptively summarized as per themes identified in our scrutiny checklist as follows;

#### *Types of Journals*

Forty studies were published in Nursing journals<sup>11-3,15-9,21-6,28-38,41-7,49-56</sup> and six articles were published in other journals<sup>14,20,27,39,40,48</sup>. Among the forty studies, nine



**Fig. 1:** Types of journals publishing analyses of nursing journals

were published in specialty nursing<sup>12,17,21,32,33,34,35,36,43</sup> journals, and 31 articles were published in general nursing journals. The comparison for the types of journals is shown in Figure 1.

#### *Number of Journals and Journal Wise Number of Articles*

The 46 studies were published in 31 peer-reviewed

journals, and among them, International Journal of Nursing Studies had published the greatest number of such articles (N=5)[11,13,18,22,46], followed by Journal of Advanced Nursing (N=4) [15,24,37,45], and Image Journal of Nursing Scholar with three articles [41,51,53]. The full comparison of all journals for their number of articles selected in this paper is shown in Figure 2.

**Number of Authors**  
 11 studies had been written by single author [17,18,22,26,29,41,42,47,50,55,56], 11 studies

had two authors [14,16,20,21,23,33,38,39,40,51,54], 10 studies had three authors [11,13,32,34,36,37,44,45,48,53], four studies had four

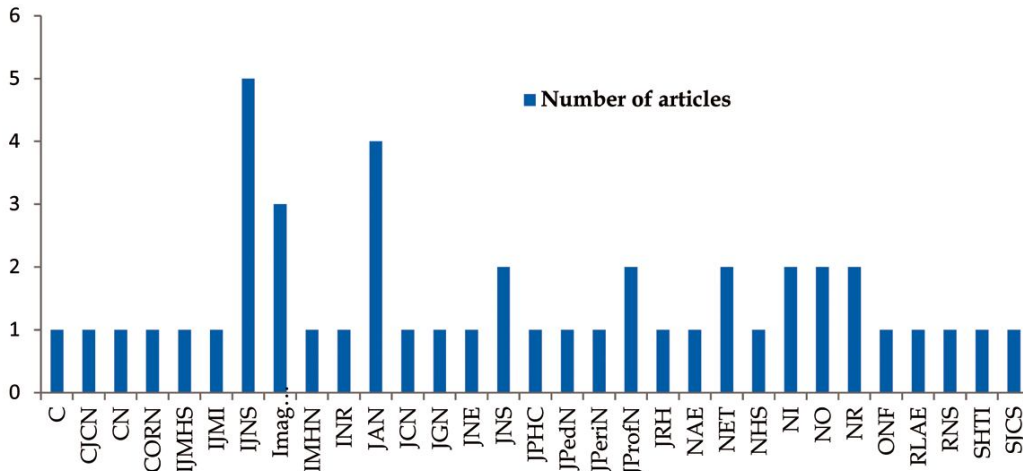


Fig. 2: Comparison of journals for number of articles on analyses of nursing journals

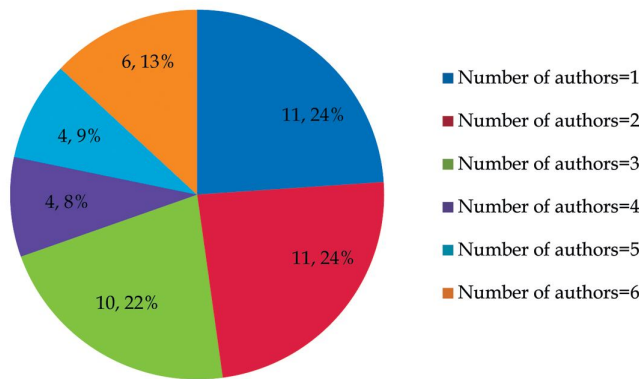


Fig. 3: Comparison of number of articles based on number of authors

authors [12,19,30,46], four studies had five authors [15,24,43,49] and six studies had six authors or more [25,27,28,31,35,52]. The comparison for number of articles based upon number of authors is given in Figure 3.

**Types of Methodological Approach**

16 studies utilized a descriptive approach [13,16,17,23,26,28,31,38,39,40,44,45,48,50,53,55] and 30 studies with analytical approach of which four

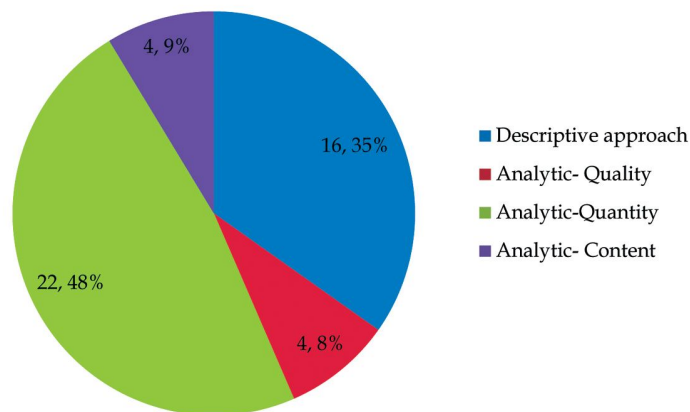
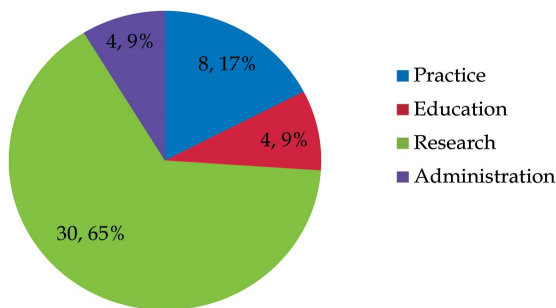


Fig. 4: Comparison of number of articles for types of methodological approach

were on quality [19,21,24,52], 22 studies were on quantity [11, 12, 14, 18, 19, 25, 27, 29, 32-37, 41-3, 47, 49, 51, 54, 56] and four were on content analysis [15, 22, 30, 46]. The comparison between the types of methodological approach is shown in Figure 4.

#### *Domains of Profession*

Eight studies were on practice and of them disaster nursing [14], operating room [17], medications [20], religion and spirituality [27, 32, 34, 35, 43] were the focused topics. Four studies were on education, of which reflective learning [26, 28, 45] and doctoral degree [53] were studied. The 20 studies were focused on research and they were on publication efficiency [11], citation analysis [12, 23], descriptive analysis [13, 15, 22, 25, 30], impact factors [16, 18], peer-review [19, 24, 38, 50], randomized controlled trials [21], discourse analysis [29], referencing accuracy [33, 36, 37, 41, 42, 54], publishing model [40], authorship [44], methodology [46], Swedish ranking [47],



**Fig. 5:** Comparison of number of articles on practice, education, research and administration

communicating findings [48], instrument reliability and validity [49] and sampling [52]. The four studies on administration studied healthcare implications [31], advertisements [51], professionalization [55], and institutional sources [56]. The comparison between the studies for domains of nursing profession is shown in Figure 5.

#### **Discussion**

This paper was neither aimed to identify the journals and perform a quality assessment and ranking [57] nor at quality assessment of individual reviews. Journals provide scientific information in an updated manner than textbooks as a source of knowledge [58]. The descriptive quantitative content analysis approach to evidence synthesis enabled a deeper insight into current state of science from a summarized overview.

Whilst most of the authors of included studies were internationally represented, writing for publication in nursing journals requires a higher degree of

competence and teamwork [59-60]. Although this paper found many journals from other professional disciplines that published analyses of nursing journals, it not only shows interprofessional recognition of the role of nursing but also the unrealized fact of greater number of such articles published in nursing journals. This finding should warrant authors to direct their evidence dissemination in a focused manner to ensure the information reaches the appropriate readership [61].

Group educational sessions and curricular modifications are essential to promote nursing students in their ability to publish their research works in their professional journals [62]. But the use of nursing journals by professional or clinical nurses is however controversial [63].

#### *Significance of this Study*

Most of the included reviews were on research, quantity analysis, written by three or few authors, and they were published in nursing journals.

#### *Limitations of this Study*

The heterogeneity of the included reviews did not permit a meta-synthesis, and due to lack of appropriate quality assessment tools, a descriptive quantitative analytical approach limits the interpretation of the study findings.

#### *Implications for Practice*

Nursing professionals in search of evidence could confidently access nursing journals since a lot of evidence synthesis reviews were published in the same.

#### *Implications for Research*

There is need for future systematic reviews and meta-analyses on focused topics oriented to clinical practice, education and administration. So also is the need for quality appraisal and scoring for the included reviews.

#### **Conclusion**

Most of the identified reviews were on research, quantity analysis, written by three or few authors, and they were published in nursing journals.

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