

ORIGINAL PAPER

The Publication Culture of Nursing Science in Finland: analysis of Research Articles Published in the Journal of Nursing Science from 1989 to 2008.

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Abstract

Purpose: Nursing science has developed rapidly as an academic discipline and also as a scientific institution internationally in the past thirty years. Publishing policies in different disciplines can be used in analyzing their development and scientific culture. The purpose of this paper is to describe publication profile of Finnish nursing research and the contents and methods used.

Methods: The data consisted of 433 articles published in Journal of Nursing Science (in Finnish Hoitotiede) during years 1989-2008. The journal is the first national scientific journal founded for nurse researchers in 1989. The data were analyzed using content analysis.

Results: The publishing has developed from single author papers to group work. A total of 24 % of the papers were single authored. Most of the papers were published in research groups within the discipline (94 %). Only 24 papers included collaboration with other disciplines such as medicine, statistics and education. Half of the papers concentrated on nursing practice and rest mainly on methodological issues or education. Only a few papers focused on health promotion, leadership issues or health policy. The nature of the research studies was descriptive, focus more on qualitative studies and a few intervention studies were published. Data were mostly collected by surveys or interviews and physiological methods were nearly non-existent.

Conclusions: The focus in Finnish studies has been on patients but on minor scale. The future challenge is to produce knowledge thru research programmes to have impact on clinical practice and health policy. Further studies are needed in evaluation of the state of nursing research in Finland and the contents as well as outcomes of the field.

Keywords: content analysis, Finland, nursing science, methodology, publications, research