

## EDITORIAL



# Research Trends and Insights for Tomorrow

There is no argument on the role of research in shaping the future. Researchers create and innovate to shape the trends and directions for tomorrow. Today, multi-country, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research are gaining emphasis. Faced by challenges on both global health and the social determinants of health--- a more holistic approach to health concerns is necessary. With such approach, triangulation of findings and collaborative perspectives are enhanced, solving complex problems more effectively and efficiently. When insights are combined from different disciplines, more innovative solutions are discovered and unlocked, paving the way to more possibilities and breakthroughs. This occurrence results from exchange of insights and lenses among interdisciplinary experts.

The benefits of inter and intra disciplinary research, combining insights to gain new perspectives are highlighted in research articles featured in this issue. Tomanan et al.'s article on *Building Capacities for Universal Health Care in the Philippines: Development and Implementation of a Leadership Training Program for Public Health Nurses* is an example of an intradisciplinary research. It highlights the crucial role of the public health nurses in the achievement of Universal Health Care using the lens of various nurses. Public health nurses are in a strategic position to lead in UHC implementation as they constitute the largest cadre of health workers in the public health setting. Furthermore, they are in a strategic position to lead the implementation of UHC and PHC. The article documents lessons and insights in the development and implementation of a leadership training program for public health nurses in the country.

When multi-disciplines come together, collaboration in solving complex problems take place. The article, *Predictors of Positive Parenting among Parents of Adolescents in Northern Thailand*, was explored by an interdisciplinary team of social scientists led by Chansiri, a nurse. The team asserts that "stress, life assets, social support, age, educational status, underlying disease, number of children, number of members in the family, and living in a municipality together with income" can influence positive parenting among the parents of adolescents. Using these predictors can guide health care providers in developing a positive parenting program for adolescents. Lubirca et al.'s team is another multidisciplinary team that showcased the application of a geographic information system (GIS) in mapping dengue cases in their article, *Analysis of Dengue Cases Using Geographic Information Systems: Evidence from Baguio City, Philippines*. The mapped dengue cases had medium to strong predictive power with environmental correlates such as land cover,

housing information (independent, mixed, or interconnected), hydrology (water bodies and canals), urbanization level (urban or rural), elevation, soil, and land surface temperature. Using GIS provides the possibility of harmonizing several data sets to better inform policymakers, highlighting the role of emerging technologies in shaping research along data collection, analysis and interpretation of data.

Castro and Cuyegkeng, a nurse and professor of Educational Leadership and Management team, explores in their article, *Building A Model For High-Quality Nurse Leader-Follower Relationships*, factors that affect the quality of nurse leader-follower relationships. A proposed model for fostering high-quality I-f relationships among nurses could guide staff development programs and strategies for improving work environments.

Mabale and Tamse, a mentor-mentee partnership, describe in their article *The Perceived Roles of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses in Selected Hospital-based Psychiatric Units in Metro Manila*, the perceived roles as "direct care provider, facilitator of family and therapeutic group activities, manager of therapeutic environment, educator, collaborator, patient advocate and researcher. These roles are clearly established in hospital-based psychiatric settings, such as being consistent with the roles that other mental healthcare professionals expect from them.

The article, *Children's toiling bodies behind the tobacco industry*, is a classical example of a mentor-mentee partnership, presenting a perspective on a child worker's life from their own lens as it humanizes the face behind child labor as a social concern. Santos and Palaganas uncover that "children found the tasks of the industry as normal and obligatory; were made to earn their own money for school, food, and other basic needs such as clothes and personal belongings." This study unveiled issues, feelings, and deep-seated longings of typical children in tobacco-growing communities: wanting sustenance for their education despite the risks involved, easing their family's burden, finishing studies and preferring work over play. This research shares the insight for the need to explore "possible mechanisms towards addressing the issue of child labor, which include nurses and social development workers advocating for access to government instruments and raising awareness on the matter". Mabale and Tamse's *The Perceived Roles of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses in Selected Hospital-based Psychiatric Units in Metro Manila*,

emphasizes the increasing demand for mental health services. The qualitative descriptive study design utilized had revealed that the perceived roles of psychiatric mental health nurses are direct care provider, facilitator of family and therapeutic group activities, manager of therapeutic environment, educator, collaborator and patient advocate and researcher while these roles are clearly established in hospital-based psychiatric settings and are consistent with the roles that other mental healthcare professionals expect from them.

Concept analysis is not a new idea and the PJN has been publishing various concept analyses during the past years. The PJN concurs with nurse scholars that "concept analysis is important for clarifying meanings for precision in conducting investigations" (Parse, 2018, p. 157). In this issue, there are three featured concept analyses. Bernardino analyzes the concept of *political competency* among nurses arising from the observation that "despite numerous accounts of political participation in the nursing discipline, there exists a limited understanding of the concept of political competency." He focuses on the defining attributes of ethical and sociopolitical knowing, courage, perseverance, and persuasion and the antecedents of reflection, resources, and clarity of values. The consequences of political competency are change and social justice. De Guzman, on the other hand, in her article on *Nurses Adaptation to Technology Towards Quality Care* analyzed adaptation to technology to give emphasis to its use in the nursing profession towards quality care. The constant changing environment not to mention the sudden existence of COVID-19 surprised the world alongside with arising technology that led to the idea of adaptation of nurses to meet the patient and/or client's needs. The attributes of adaptation of nurses were successful interaction of nursing population with the technological environment and changes in function of the Nurse as to get used to daily routine and technology. Asto analyzes the concept of *Interprofessional Collaboration Role of School Nurse* using the defining attributes of interprofessional collaboration that includes values/ethics for interprofessional practice, roles and responsibilities of a school nurse, communication, and teamwork, which explain and constitute the definition of the concept. Antecedents include care coordination, case management, case finding and collaboration with consequences of health outcomes, interdisciplinary mobilization, and school health services' integration that were recognized in the text as those events or aspects that occur before and after interprofessional collaboration takes place in a practical situation, respectively. Indeed, this paper adds and builds further understanding of the concept, potentially guiding a standard reference to the term, and facilitating further knowledge on how school nurses and other health care providers can effectively apply interprofessional collaboration in various settings. These concept analyses illuminate the essences that can contribute to nursing knowledge development and are critical to the advancement of nursing knowledge.

Very recently, the PJN has been featuring policy papers/briefs. A glaring scenario nowadays is the abundance of research evidences that are not used by policy makers. A policy brief which is a short document summarizing the results of one or more studies or evidences (Arnautu, D., & Dagenais, C. 2021). This facilitates understanding and timely response of policy makers, who often do

not have the luxury of time to read long manuscripts. Tubaña's Policy Brief on *The Psychological and Well-Being of Isolated Patients During Outbreaks and Pandemics* highlights the value of positive mental health and well-being that constitute individuals' functionality and adaptability toward a healthier life. He claims that there is a need to focus not only on the epidemiologic features of novel infectious diseases, but also on mental health impacts, particularly the adverse psychological effects of isolation. Almazan and Almazan's *Bridging the gap in the recall of G6PD deficient screened babies* serves as a supplementary policy to bridge the gaps in the recall of G6PD Deficient Patients and increase return rate of G6PD nationwide. Nurses can take leadership in advocating recommended policy changes to inform mental health-related decision-making.

Nurses' voices will always be crucial in any undertaking in the nursing profession. The PJN continues to value listening to what nurses have to say. Waldo's voice from the field echoes the undiagnosed epidemic of pediatric sleep. as he presents his work on *Addressing Sleep Problems among Children and Teens in Primary Care*. Early screening and understanding sleep hygiene correlates are equally important. Parental involvement in sleep hygiene measures (i.e., bedtime habits on technology use) can start at home. Also, collaborative efforts with parents and schools highlighting prevention interventions can be a focus in population health.

While scientific and technological advancements often grab the spotlight, research in the social sciences and humanities is equally essential for understanding and addressing societal challenges. This issue presents insights not only in nursing but also from fields like sociology, psychology, anthropology, and economics. The perspectives from these fields are crucial in understanding human behavior, cultural dynamics, and social issues and determinants of health. PJN will continue to feature multi-disciplinary researches that help shape public health policy, collective problem-solving, nursing education, and health governance based on ethical principles.

## References

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