



Assessing the practical relevance of nursing students' theses in clinical environments:

A Letter to Editor

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Dear Editor

The application of nursing research results is believed to impact organizations/hospitals by improving the quality of nursing care services, increasing patient satisfaction, and increasing work motivation for nurses (1). The implementation of nursing research can influence the attitudes, interests, and knowledge of nurses (2). The results of nursing research are also believed to positively impact patient conditions such as changes in pain, length of hospitalization, costs, and several other clinical areas (3). Master's nursing students are essential to provide effective nursing care. However, the results of the nursing research conducted have yet to be implemented optimally. This study explores graduates' experiences applying their nursing research and obstacles in clinical nursing practice.

We conducted a pilot study involving 12 clinical practice nurses who graduated from the master's nursing program. The faculty of Nursing at Hasanuddin University took part in this research. Two general themes are identified: the lack of optimal application of nursing theses in clinical nursing practice and the lack of support from the nursing profession for nursing theses. Our findings indicate that the application of the results of the master nursing thesis is yet to be optimal. Previous researches reported that a shortage of nursing staff is a common problem in health facilities. The number of nurses is disproportionate to the number of patients (4), including nursing workload (5). Thus, when implementing clinical nursing practice, the ratio of nurses to patients is an indicator that must be considered so that nursing care services are more optimal and effective. We also found that the barrier to implementing the master's nursing thesis, which needed to be more optimal, was lack of time. This aligns with prior research, which found that 62.2% of nurses required more time for implementation (6). In addition, the success of implementing nursing interventions is influenced by patient involvement. The research results prove that patient involvement can improve hospital services to provide the best interventions for patients and health service providers (7). The research underscores the critical need to address the shortage of nursing staff and its impact on nurse-patient ratios. This factor directly affects the implementation of master nursing theses in clinical practice.

We also found that participants need institutional support to implement their master's nursing thesis. Attending conferences offers a great way to learn about the research being done in one's field and to network with other researchers for future projects (8). Apart from that, collaboration factors with teams and funding are obstacles to implementing the results of a master's nursing thesis (9). On the other hand, leadership support is also a factor that can facilitate the implementation of nursing interventions (5). This research explains that there is no forum for dissemination, so the research results could be better disseminated. This is in line with research which proves that dissemination can contribute to sharing knowledge in practice (10). The findings reveal that participants require substantial institutional support to implement their master's nursing theses effectively. This need for support aligns with existing research, emphasizing the role of various forms of support. It would be valuable to explore how institutions can provide this essential support, not only in terms of financial and logistical assistance but also in fostering collaboration and securing funding, to deepen our understanding.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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