

# **Role of Research in Nursing**

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➤ Development and utilization of *nursing knowledge* is essential for *continued improvement in patient care*.

➤ Conducting researches in nursing is important to establish a *knowledge-base* for *practice, improvement, and development*



# *Definitions ...*



## *Research*

Systematic, formal, rigorous, and precise process used to *gain solutions to problems* or *discover and interpret new facts and relationships*.

# *Definitions ...*



## *Nursing research*

*Systemic inquiry designed to develop knowledge about issues of importance to nurses, including nursing practice, nursing education, and nursing administration.*

*Definitions ...*



## *Research-based practice*

*Using research findings to inform the decisions, actions, and interaction of nurses with clients.*

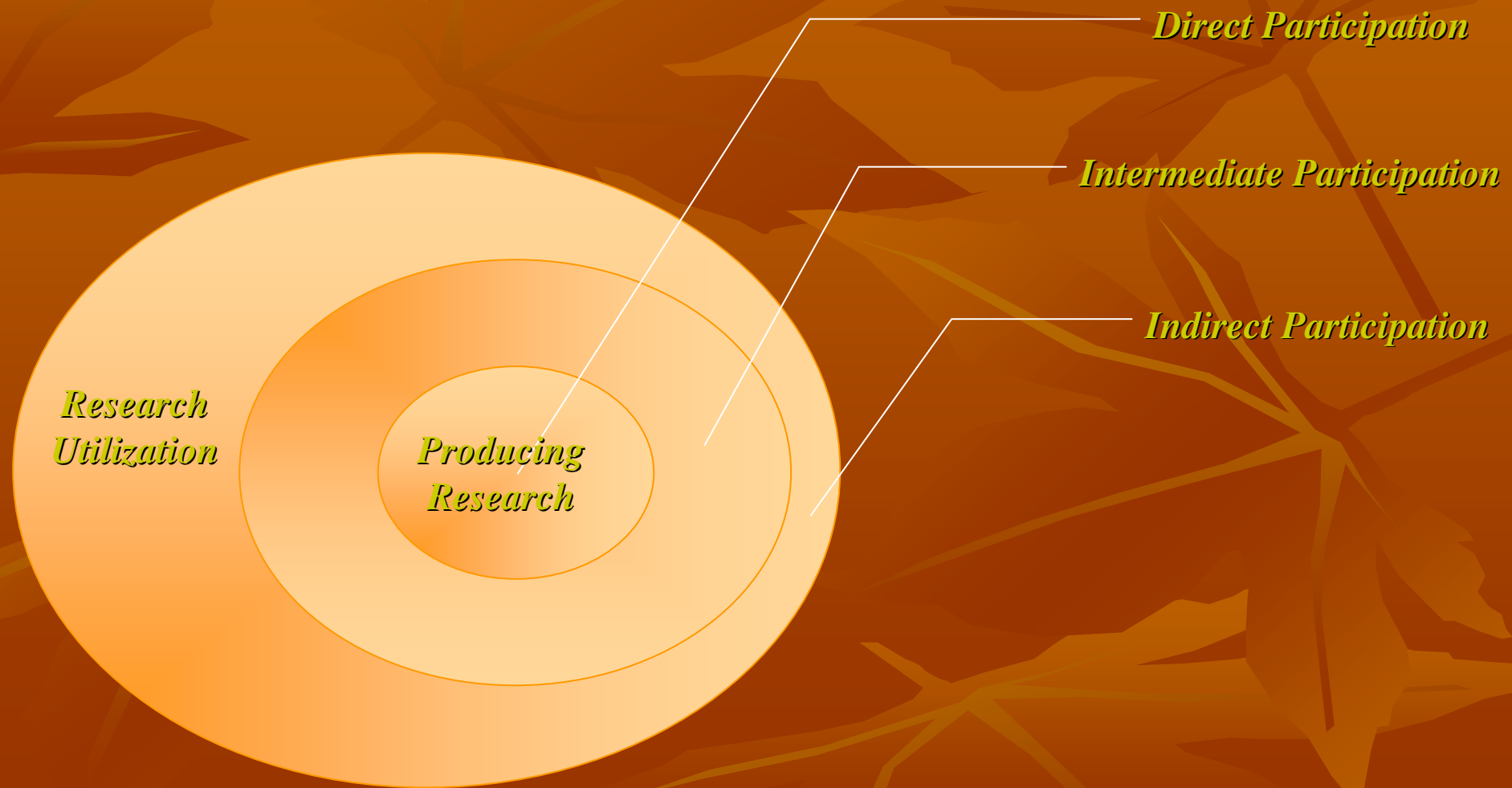
# *Importance of research in nursing*

- development and utilization of nursing knowledge.
- document the effectiveness of nurses' practices.
- understanding the varied dimensions of nursing profession, (*theoretical, ethical, practical dimensions, etc*).

# *Importance of research in nursing (Cont.)*

- Enables nurses to describe the following:
  - *Characteristics of a nursing situation* about which little is known.
  - *Explain phenomena* that must be considered in planning nursing care.
  - *Predict* the probable *outcomes* of certain *nursing decisions*.
  - *Control* the occurrence of *undesired outcomes*.
  - *Initiate activities* to promote *desired client behavior*.

# *Roles of nurses in nursing research*





# *Sources of knowledge*

- *Tradition.*
- *Authorities.*
- *Personal experience.*
- *Trial and error.*
- *Intuition.*
- *Logical reasoning.*
- *Disciplined research (Scientific research)*

# *Tradition ...*



Certain beliefs are accepted as *truths* and simply based on customs,

*(for example, one of the tasks traditionally performed by nurses is the change-of-shift report for each and every patient, whether or not the patient's condition has changed, without proving its productivity and/or effectiveness under certain circumstances).*



# *Authorities ...*



- An authority is a person with specialized expertise and recognition for that expertise.
- Dependency on nursing authorities (such as nursing faculty) is inevitable.
- Authorities as a source of information have limitations as:
  - May depend on their *personal experiences*.
  - Their knowledge often goes *unchallenged*.



# *Personal experience ...*



- Solving problems based on *observations and experiences*.
- Personal experience has *limitations* as:
  - Each person's experience may be *too restricted* to be useful.
  - Personal experiences are *often biased*.

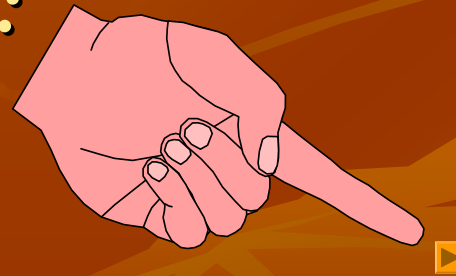


# *Trial and error ...*



Usually involves *multiple attempts to solve a particular problem until a satisfactory solution is found.*

*See the coming Example:*



# Example ...

*A pediatric nurse who is caring for immobilized child in the hospital may try a number of different play techniques based on the child's developmental stage until finding one that is effective.*



# Trial & Error Limitation

This method of knowing is inefficient because:

- A *number of attempts* are usually required before a solution is found.
- It could be *hazardous* to client safety.
- The solution found may be specific to a particular client and setting and *not generalizable* to a broad population.



# *Intuition ...*



- The ability to understand a situation or phenomena as a whole *without reasoning or previous study*.
- It causes a nurse to respond appropriately in unfamiliar situations (*as a personal experience*).
- However, controversy exists regarding its *validity* because it does not conform to the recent requirements for evidence-based practice in health care (*that is, intuitive knowing is not predictable, measurable, and generalizable*).





# *Logical reasoning...*



*What is reasoning ??*

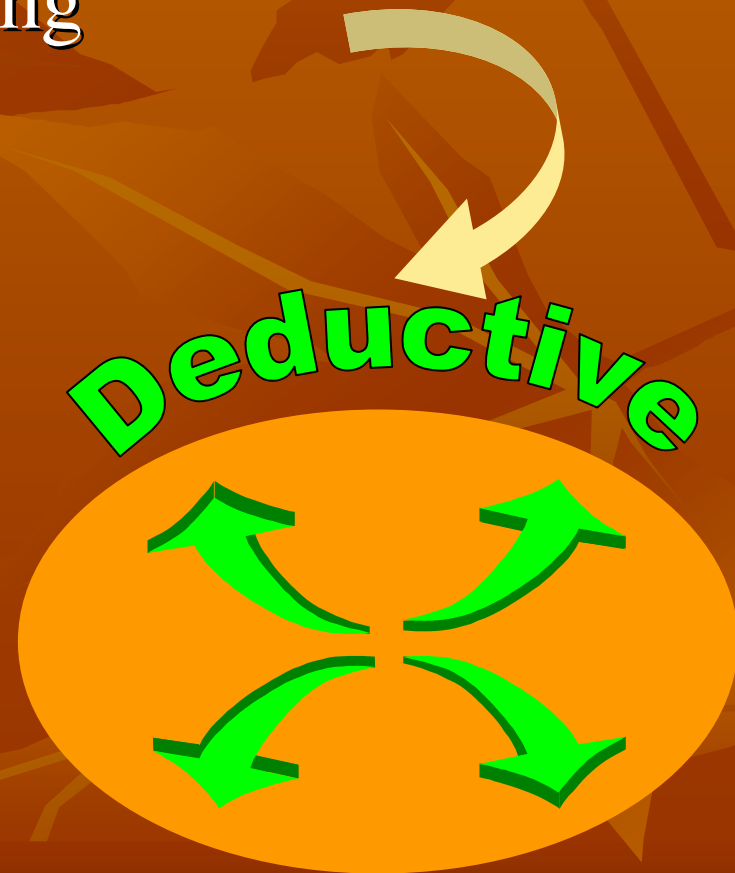
*Reasoning*

Mental processing of ideas to solve problems.



# *Intellectual Mechanisms*

*Two* intellectual mechanisms are used in reasoning



# *Inductive Reasoning:*

- Process of developing *conclusions and generalizations* from *specific observations*.
- It moves *from the specific to the general*.
- Specific situations are observed and then *combined* into a larger, more *general statement* that can be tested through research.



## *Example ...*

*The obstetrics nurse described observed hundreds of individual clients in labor over many years. From these observations, the nurse was able to propose a general theory about women who are in labor that could then be tested through formal research.*



# *Deductive Reasoning:*

- process of developing specific predictions from general principles.
- Nurse reaches a *conclusion* by moving *from the general to the specific.*
- It is the approach used to test predictions and validate existing relationships.



## *Example ...*

*An obstetrics nurse has noticed over many years of practice that women who have no support person with them while giving birth require more supportive nursing care than those accompanied by a mother, a partner, or friend. When this nurse then admits a young woman in labor who arrives at the hospital alone, the nurse anticipates that additional care measures will be appropriate for this client*



## *Disciplined research (Scientific research):*

- *Research* conducted within a disciplined format is the most sophisticated method of acquiring knowledge.
- *Nursing research* creates systems of problem solving that tend to be more reliable than other sources of knowledge.



*Any  
Question*

???