

Research tool

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ABSTRACT

Background: Research usually uses a representative sample to draw an inference, thus it requires a methodologically strong research process that is ascertained by its research tool or instrument.

Conclusion: A good research uses a validated research tool.

Keywords: reliability, research, tool, validation, validity

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INTRODUCTION

Research tool or instrument denotes a means of collecting information or data.¹ Without this tool it is not possible to collect information in a desirable form. Therefore, the researchers use research tools of any kind and form during their research work and evaluation projects. Some of the tools will be devised then and there to address the specific issue or research question. Some tools are already in practice somewhere that has been used as such or used after their validation at research site. Use of validated tools in a study assures strength of the research methodology and the result would have external validity as well. Tools could be structured most of the time and some are unstructured like in qualitative study. Research project has a pre-defined time frame and the tools would have been structured but an unstructured tool may invite unpredictable result in terms of content or time duration.² Research (re-search) means a systematic investigation (search) or activity to gain new knowledge of the already existing (re-) facts. The purpose of research is to find out a solution or answer to the question through the application of scientific procedure and the solution carries validity if the tool used in this process is validated and established.¹

Research tools could be open or copy righted and every researcher should respect it appropriately. A gray line appears if it is used entirely for academic purpose as the scientific knowledge is conveyed for the further scientific act but if not then it is considered as violation of ethical norms. A common understanding is that the scientific activities are not legally binding but by the professional and ethical norms in the scientific world.³ Research tool becomes robust if it has both internal and external validity as well as with the reliability of reasonable degree. That's why there is a need to validate every research and practice tool.⁴

CONCLUSIONS

A good research tool should have validity, reliability and validated status for the generation of a generalizable scientific message.

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