

ENHANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF MINORITY WOMEN AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN RESEARCH.

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Problem: Research studies show the need for the participation of minority women and women with disabilities for the advancement of science and to improve the quality of life among these groups. The purpose of this review is to explore the reasons why it is difficult to attract this population to participate in research and offer possible remedies.

Method: Literature review was utilized to examine culturally relevant methods for facilitating participation of minority women and women with disabilities among various age groups and chronic illnesses.

Findings: Major barriers identified include: 1) concern about trust and informed consent, especially among the elderly, and from previous negative experiences, 2) inadequate information about research purpose, methods, risks, and expected outcomes, 3) lack of respect for persons and inappropriate benefits and compensations, 4) lack of feedback from researchers to the population especially in the rural areas, 5) cultural relevance to the population being studied, 6) educational and language barriers, 7) inaccessibility to the research site and resources, and 8) roles of these women as mothers and caregivers.

Discussion: Researchers must work toward breaking down these barriers to secure the future of nursing research and science. Forming partnerships between the community and the researcher can help earn the trust of participants and adequately inform research. Improved research participation can help obtain crucial findings that could be beneficial to the community. Insuring cultural relevance of the study can foster trust and respect. Bringing the research study to the community can facilitate involvement. Participation of minority women and women with disabilities in nursing research will move nursing science forward to achieving the goal of providing culturally competent holistic care.