

OUTCOMES RESEARCH IN PHYSIOTHERAPY EDUCATION

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BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM

- Physiotherapy in South Africa
 - Past 80 years, Research development
- Evidence Based education
 - using the best available evidence to guide teaching practice
 - a gap in the global physiotherapy education literature
- Problem
 - tradition of practical and experience based knowledge
 - Pilot study results

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

- **Research questions**
 - What is the status of physiotherapy educational research in South Africa?
- **AIMS OF THE STUDY**
 - To analyze educational research trends/patterns in the South African Journal of physiotherapy (SAJ Physiother) over a fifteen-year period; and the implications thereof.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- **Design**
 - Documentary research, which refers to the analysis of written documents using content analysis was employed in this study
- **Sample**
 - educational articles were sampled from articles published in the South African Journal of Physiotherapy between February 1989 and November 2003.
 - Editorials, letters, abstracts and book reviews) were excluded from the analysis



CONTENT ANALYSIS

- Two reviewers
- Analysis by
 - Authorship
 - Race, gender, institution
 - Topic category
 - Research, teaching, Clinical and Other
 - Focus area
 - Outcomes

DATA ANALYSIS

- Periodic analysis
 - 1989 – 1993
 - 1994 – 1998
 - 1999 – 2003
 - Pre and post democracy periods
- Descriptive statistics

RESULTS

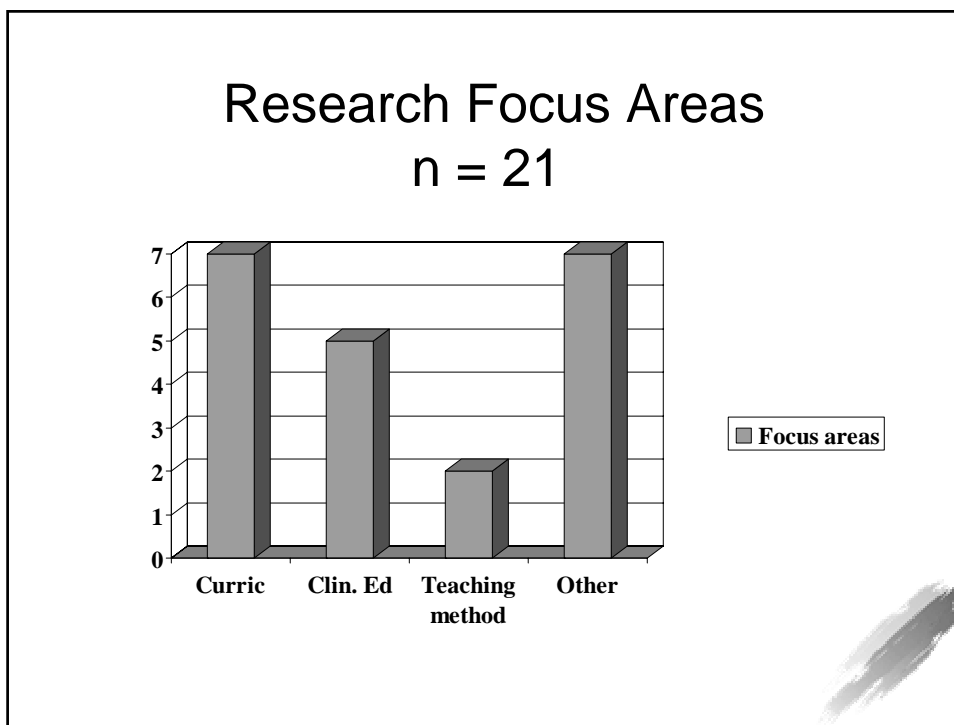
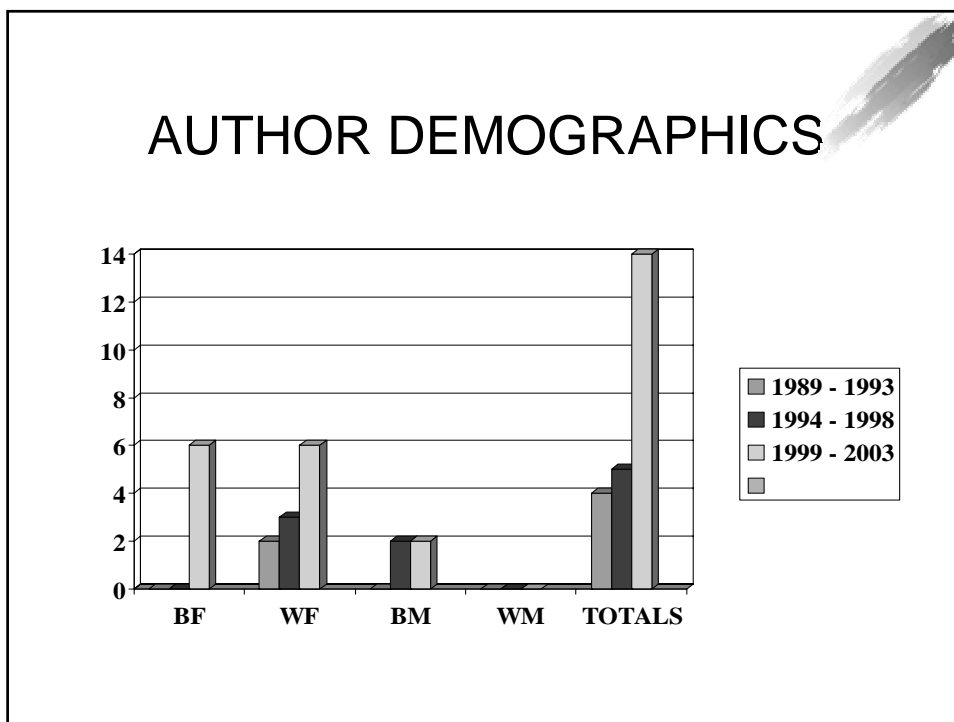
Population and sample

- Population
 - 224 articles were published
 - 133 by academics
 - > 50%
- Sample
 - 31 articles on education
 - 5 STUDENT
 - 3 NSA
 - 2 NPT
 - Only 21 analysed

RESULTS -

Total article population n = 224

TOPIC CATEGORY	NO.OF ARTICLES	Educ. Articles
Clinical	105	74
Educational	31	21
Research	11	5
Other	77	33
TOTAL	224	133



DISCUSSION

- Trends
- Issues
- Priorities
- Strategies

DISCUSSION

- Author Demographics
- Lack of educational research
- Educational Focus areas
- Clinical education
- Curriculum
 - PBL

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

- Conflict of loyalties
 - Healy 2000, Sparkes 2002,
- Education not immune to EBP (scrutiny)
Chipchase 2004

- *“ Most educators do consider their primary allegiance to be their subject or discipline, with their teaching function being secondary”* (Healy 2000).
- The findings of this study, whereby about 20% of the educators' articles were on educational issues confirm this statement.

- 'RELUCTANCE' TO CONDUCT EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH
 - SERVICE EXPECTATION (TRIPARTITE ROLE)

 - EBP – clinical practice
 - EBE
 - Teaching what is evidence based
 - Using evidence based teaching strategies

CONCLUSSION

- Strategies
 - Educational journal
 - Lecturers SIG
- Ongoing research

THANK YOU!!!!

