Public health in Latin American countries presents a problem characterized by the limited development of research. It is said that, in some way, this represents the marginalization of public health within research priorities and the minor importance it has achieved in the development of public policies.

The first level of health care represents a rich research potential. Here there are enormous spaces to develop research work on multiple topics with different approaches, such as historical analysis of the health results obtained, human resources that are possessed, satisfaction of the internal and external user, effectiveness and problems of the programs and strategies; but in addition, research at the first level of health means contributing to the goals and guidelines of the national system, to national policy, and thus, contributing to the national problem solving.

Consequently, at the first level, any event of reality, information or intervention, it is subject to research, whether to describe, explain, improve or change it. In all these cases, the studies will aim at continuous improvement based on the identification of the needs of the population and institutions.

On the other hand, in Peru, due to the number of social problems, needs of the population and lack of resources in the first level establishments; nurses apply multiple innovative strategies to achieve scheduled goals and coverage. It is in this day-to-day practice that there is much information that needs to be evidenced and taken from the empirical realm to the scientific realm through research.

Consequently, the research potential is high; nevertheless, health professionals, including nurses, are not scientifically productive and do not apply research as part of their professional duties. The reasons indicated in the studies in this regard are varied, such as lack of time, deficient motivation-stimulus, lack of resources, financing, and support. It can be said that primary care is in crisis not only because it has increasingly limited resources, but also because it has not managed to consolidate a culture of research among its professionals, despite being a strategic pillar of the health system.

Nevertheless, the main difficulty is that professionals graduated do not have sufficient training in research because the undergraduate degree failed to model the scientific professional with research skills demanded by health problems in the area of primary care. Consequently, it is necessary to develop basic and specific research competencies through training, among other practical strategies, especially appropriate and directed at the first level.

In the same sense, it is necessary to recognize that the contribution of nursing in the field of primary care, through research, contributes to social welfare and national goals; therefore, more support and encouragement are needed, considering that they give their personal effort and free time seeking to improve the health of the population.

Finally, it is worth reflecting on the link university - community and training institutions - community, which should not only be restricted to the development of teaching and practice to achieve care skills; but also involves interventions that seek to strengthen research skills focused on social outreach by linking undergraduate and graduate students to the integrity of primary care, including research.

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