



Developing a good research question

Dr. Myitzu Tin Oung

M.B.,B.S.; MA (Pop. & Repro. Health Research); MPH; PhD (Demography)

Deputy Director/Head

Medical Statistics Division

Department of Medical Research (Pyin Oo Lwin Branch)





Outline

- Why?
- What?
- How?





A research should start with . . .

A RESEARCH QUESTION





WHY?





A well-developed research question

- help researchers **focus** their research by providing a path through the research process





WHAT?



**Online Brainstorming Workshop for Further Development of Action Plan
for Implementation Research (MRH), DMR (POLB), 25th-26th September 2020**





What is a Research Question?

Uncertainty about something
the investigator wants to resolve





What is a Research Question?

What a researcher would like to know:

What? When? Who? Where?

How? Why?

about a problem





A Research Problem

What is \neq What should be

Reasons for this difference is unclear

More than one possible solution to the problem





A Research Problem

Non-researchable problem

- A discrepancy exists between desired and observed situation
- We know why the discrepancy exists
- We know the best solution

Researchable problem

- A discrepancy exists between desired and observed situation
- We do not know why the discrepancy exists
- Different solutions exist but we do not know the best one





HOW?



**Online Brainstorming Workshop for Further Development of Action Plan
for Implementation Research (MRH), DMR (POLB), 25th-26th September 2020**





Sources of research questions





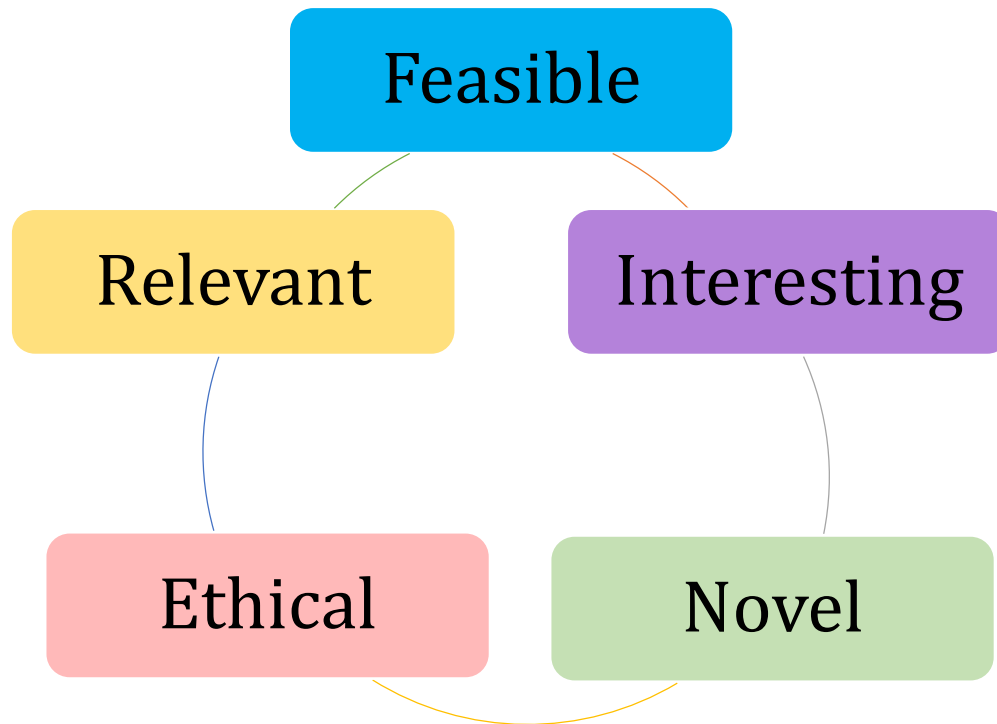
Steps in developing research questions

- Step 1: Choose a General Research Area
- Step 2: Find Background Information
- Step 3: Translate Your Interest into a Research Question
- Step 4: Modify Your Research Question



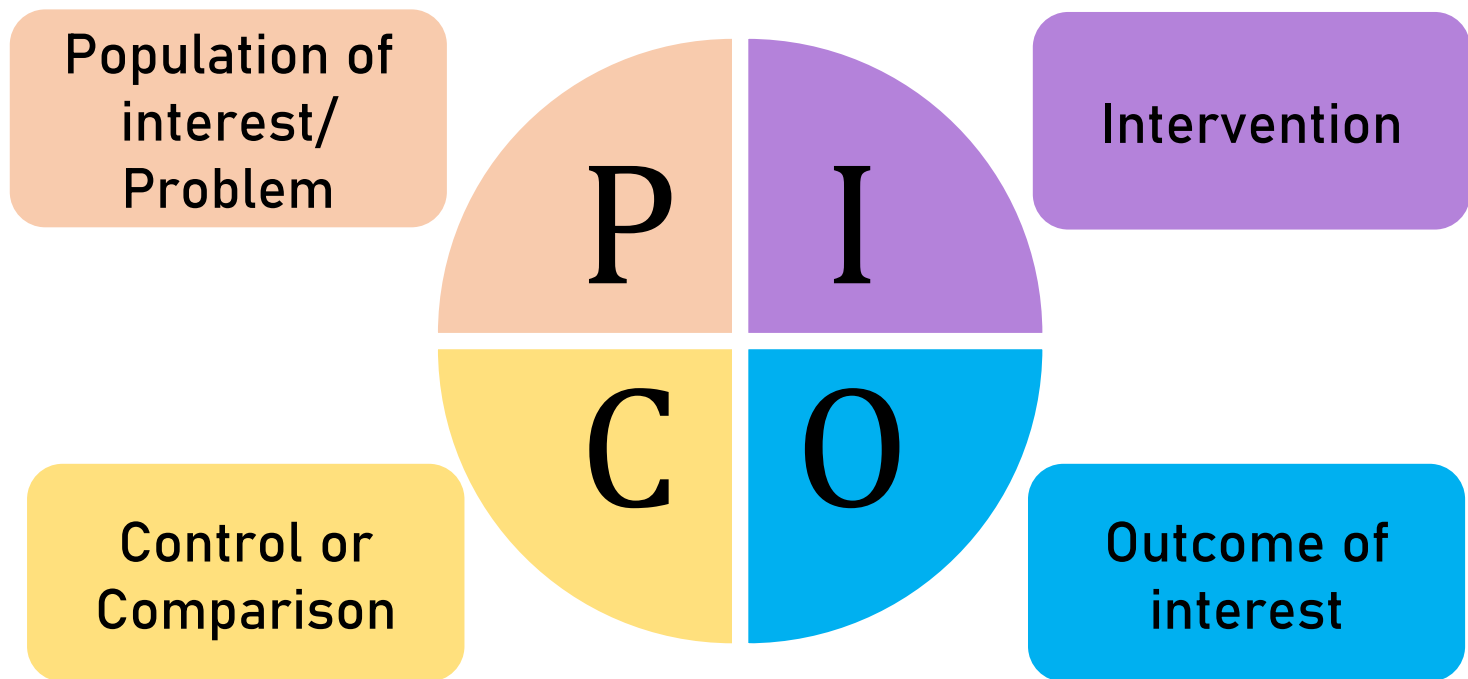


Criteria for a good research question (FINER)



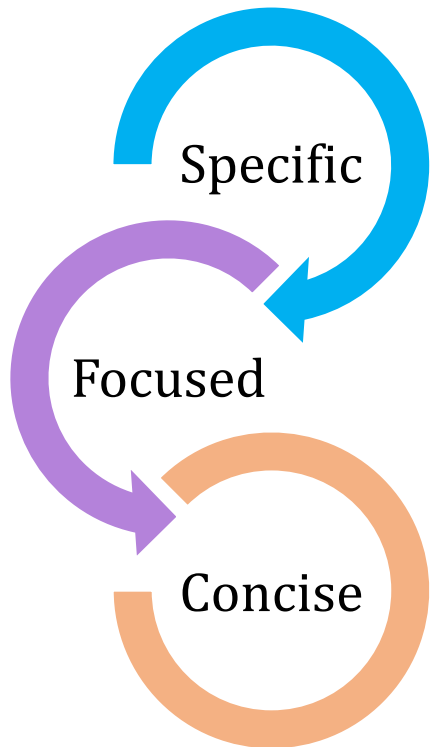


Components of a good research question (PICO)





Key features of a good research question



It provides enough specifics that one's audience can easily understand its purpose without needing additional explanation

It is narrow enough that it can be answered

It is expressed in the fewest possible words



Example





Step 1: Choose a General Research

Family planning

Unmet need

Sustainable financing for commodities

Provider

FP Discontinuation

Demand

Post-partum FP

Reaching the hardest to reach

Service

Post-abortion care

Empowering young people-
initiation of Youth contraception

Access

Adolescent

Communication

Marginalized people

Strengthen LMIS of RH
commodity security

Methods





Step 2: Find Background Information

Post-partum FP

Published articles

Gray literature

Reports

Text books

Guidelines, Manuals

Research problem? Already explored? What they have explored?
What they found? What they have not investigated yet? Knowledge gap?



Step 3: Translate Your Interest into a Research Question

- What are the factors affecting post-partum family planning among women?

FINER

PICO

Specific, Focused, Concise





Step 4: Modify Your Research Question

- What is the status of using a modern contraceptive method before pregnancy and the factors associated with preferences of contraception in postpartum period among pregnant women who are attending ante-natal clinics at public health facilities in selected townships with low CPR?





Questions, comments and suggestion

