



## CHAPTER IV

### THE STUDY SAMPLE

It is always aimed at developing useful generalizations about target population from the study results. The small group that is observed is a sample and the larger group to which the findings may be applied is called population. A sample, a portion of a population, is integral part of the research protocol. While making generalizations, it is necessary to identify the target population and the population to be sampled. The steps of sampling is followed according to Ary, D. et al (1979). It is illustrated in Figure 4.1.

#### 4.1. THE TARGET POPULATION.

The target population is that population about which the study results may be applied. It is a first step in sampling to identify the target population. In this study, the target population is intended to include all professional staff nurses who had successfully completed prescribed certificate level nursing courses and were graduated from all nursing campuses in Nepal in 1986 to 1989. The description of the target population is related to Kish (1965) who stated that a population should be described in terms of (a) content, (b) units,

(c) extent and (d) time. (Keeves, J. P. et al 1988).

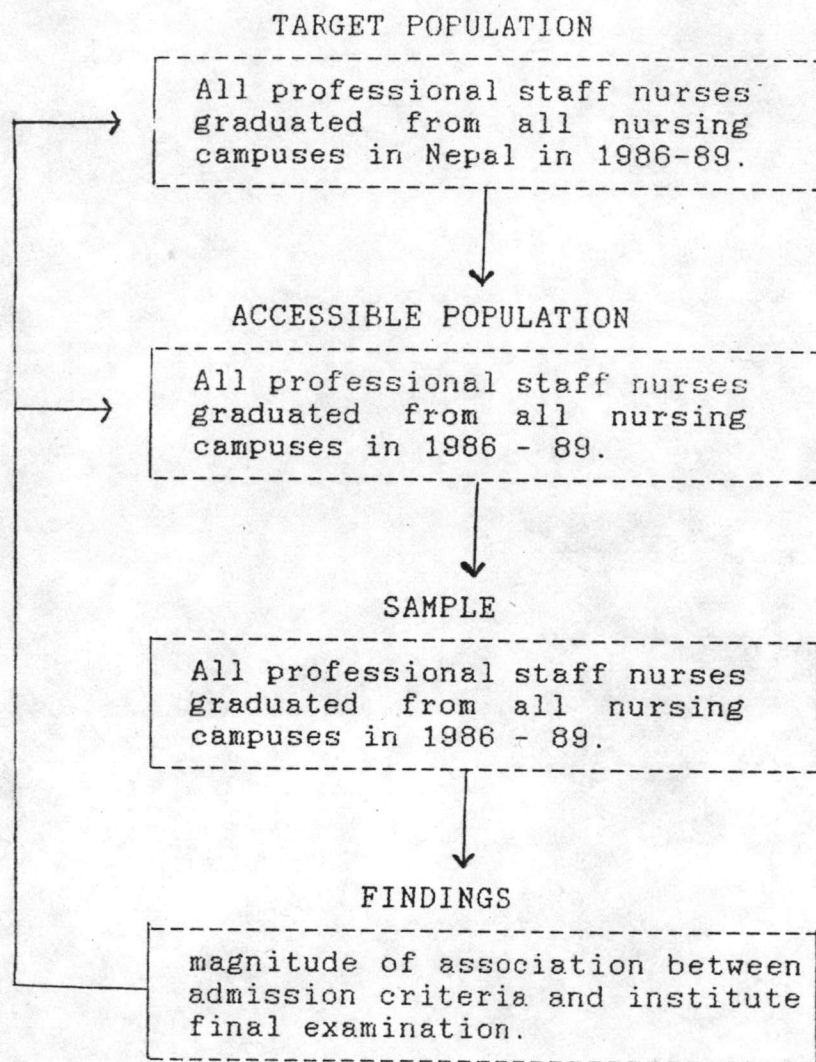


Figure 4.1. The steps in sampling.

All nursing campuses are as follows:

- Maharajgunj Nursing Campus ---- in Kathmandu, central region.
- UMN Nursing Campus ---- in Kathmandu, central region.
- Biratnagar Nursing Campus ---- in eastern region.
- Pokhara Nursing Campus ---- in western region.
- Birgunj Nursing Campus ---- in southern region.
- Nepalgunj Nursing Campus ---- in far-western region.
- Bir Hospital Nursing Campus ---- in Kathmandu, central region.

Nepalgunj Nursing Campus and Bir Hospital Nursing Campus are not included because these campuses are newly established and they do not have graduates.

#### 4.2. THE ACCESSIBLE POPULATION

Since most of the time, it is usually not possible to deal with the whole of the target population. So the investigator must have to identify that portion of the population to which one can have access that is called accessible population. It is from this group the investigator will take the sample for the study. For this study, the accessible population comprised of same population stated in the target population. For the justification, all nursing campuses in Nepal except Maharajgunj Nursing campus, produce about 25 to 30 graduates in one academic year. Maharajgunj Nursing campus produces about 60 to 65 graduates per year.



#### 4.3. THE SAMPLE

The sample is actually drawn from the accessible population in such a way that it is representative of that population. The study sample comprises of all professional staff nurses who were graduated from all nursing campuses in 1986 to 1989. The sample represents in all important respects, target population, therefore the result may be applicable to the target population.

#### 4.4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following eligibility criteria are applied to each subjects:-----

##### 4.4.1. INCLUSION CRITERIA

The subjects with following characteristics have been considered for inclusion----

- Professional staff nurses who had completed certificate level nursing course and graduated in 1986 to 1989.

##### 4.4.2. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Nepalgunj Nursing campus and Bir Hospital Nursing campus are excluded because of no production of graduates. Nepalgunj Nursing campus was established two years back and Bir Hospital Nursing campus was started last year only.

#### 4.5. JUSTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Admission criteria of nursing education program did not remain constant. At the beginning, the requirement for admission was class IX passed. In 1970 it was raised to school leaving certificate (SLC). In 1972, the compulsory subjects were added to the admission criteria. From 1978, the entrance examination was eliminated from the admission criteria. In 1985, the requirement was raised to SLC second division, compulsory subjects (Science, Mathematics and English) with at least 50 % and above in aggregate marks. But in 1986, it was again changed into SCL 45 % with same compulsory subjects. Now it is remained for same. During 1980 - 1984, there were also some changes in criteria. The score records of that period will be also difficult to retrieve.

#### 4.6. ALLOCATION OF SAMPLE

All subjects are involved in the sample therefore the sample allocation is not required.

#### 4.7. MINIMIZATION OF SAMPLING BIAS

Since the whole population sampled is included in the study, there may not be the question of sampling bias. It represents the target population.

#### 4.8. SAMPLE SIZE

The number of study units must be sufficient to make the study result reliable. Because a larger sample is much more likely to be representative of the population. The large sample statistics involve small sampling error, greater reliability, and increase the power of a statistical test applied to data. It is preferable to increase the size whenever practical. Representativeness is equally important in selecting a sample to yield the desired result. (Ary, D. et al 1979). So this study included all professional staff nurses of that particular period. The sample consisted of 514 graduate nurses of 1986 - 1989. Of these, 507 were identified for whom complete data were available and thus constituted the subjects of this study. Involvement of all subjects minimize the effect of distortion.

#### 4.9. LIMITATIONS

There were some changes in admission criteria until 1985. Therefore the target population is identified after 1986 only. Because of limited time and requirement to complete the course, it is not possible to conduct prospective study too. The study comprises those variables only which were collected in admission process. Other variables are not available. Thus, the variables are limited in this study.