

SEN-SRN Conversion Course

Research Module



Collecting & Analysing Qualitative Data

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Lecture Overview

- Qualitative research
- Limitation of Qualitative Research
- How to analyse Qualitative Data
- Tips for good Qualitative Analysis
- Critique of a Qualitative data Analysis

Qualitative Research

- Involves the collection of subject determined narrative information with limited to no control of the investigator
- Gives the greatest degree of expression to the client
- Information is derived from subjects in order to understand ‘lived experience’ - including attitudes, feelings, opinions
- Also known as ‘Phenomenological Research’

Limitations of Qualitative Approach

- The participative researcher may change the situation by his presence
- The participants may not be representative of the larger population
- Easy for the researcher to make similar conclusions
- A degree of researcher's bias is assumed
- Not an easy task to conduct, although one can get away from the statistical headache



Qualitative Analysis

- Qualitative analysis is the non-numerical organisation and interpretation of data in order to discover patterns, themes, forms and qualities found in unstructured data.
- Analyst try to put themselves in others' shoes to discern how they think, feel, act, and behave
- We, nurses, do it all the time in our daily interactions with the patient, relatives to describe behaviour, attitude, response etc.



Purposes of Qualitative Analysis

- Account for and illustrating quantitative findings
- To explore and describe
- Discovery and explanation
- Extension of theory

How Qualitative Data are Analysed

- Converting Qualitative data into Quantitative Data
- Doing a **content analysis**
 - Categorising verbal and behavioural data
 - Involves analytic thinking and creativity of researcher
- **Analytic induction**. When the two of the above is not possible: Intensive analysis of individual cases and comparison of one case to another
- **Discovering ground theory**: The problem itself emerges from the data. Generation of categories and hypotheses. Discover theoretical precepts grounded in the data. Categories are compared, commonalities & variations can be determined.

Tips for Analysing Qualitative Data

- Develop a Categorising system for coding.
Researcher has to identify important dimensions by reading available material, what methods used, aspects of data collection etc.
- When finalised be prepared to amend
- Develop a Code-book with 2-3 characteristics that typify each category
- IT programs do exist for qualitative data
- Another team member to ensure no subjective and biased interpretation

Guidelines for Critique

- Would a quantitative approach have been more appropriate
- What sources of data collection? Were tools (interview, observation etc.) appropriate? Were limitations included?
- Are categories described? Are rules for categorising explained? Any overlap or redundancies in categories?
- Were the major themes highlighted?
- What efforts were made to validate the findings? What evidence was shown that analysis is accurate & objective?
- Was social context well explained?
- Were relationships between concepts expressed?
- Were quantitative data included to strengthen findings?