

Qualitative the societal realm of the creation



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Qualitative research (QR) helps us to understand the societal realm of the creation of things and to investigate in-depth how things became the way they are. If the study question involves exploring experience of people something, or whatever their views are, exploring a new area where issues are not yet understood or properly identified (for example before developing questionnaire items), assessing whether a new service is implementable, looking at 'real-life' context, or a sensitive topic where one needs flexibility to avoid causing distress and probably needs to discuss using qualitative methodology.

Denzin and Lincoln (2000: 3) claim that qualitative research involves an interpretive and naturalistic approach. Qualitative researchers mine information from real-life settings and deduce meaning from the information given by people. QR's main concept is to explore people's life and its approaches generate words rather than numbers for research findings (Bowling 2002). Shank (2002: 5) expresses qualitative research as procedure that deals with methodical first hand survey about life like situations. By methodical might mean strategic and well-ordered method that is cast-off to source data grounded on the participant's experiences and to deduce meaning from the findings. Empirical, means that this type of inquiry is stuck in the world of skill. In quest into how other investigators try to find out how other investigators evaluate their experience.

DeVellis (2006) stated that validity is whereby an apparatus measures anything intended to be measured. Validity forces reliability of a tool, but a tool can be invalid and reliable. For example, a clock might be five minutes

ahead. The clock will be reliable because it will constantly remain five minutes ahead but will be invalid because it will be showing incorrect time.

According to Crocker and Algina (2001) Reliability refers to the extent to which studies can be replicated. It requires that a researcher using the same methods can obtain the same results as those of a prior study. This poses a titanic problem for researchers concerned with superhuman stories.

When carrying a research using qualitative research most of the time it might be challenging to carry out a research using a group of participants in 2017 and expect to get the same group and then to get similar responses in 2018. It is tricky because with time people might change their personality and transfer. Qualitative research is unreliable and inherently invalid when the findings of a research fail to show authority and dependability. The researcher's bias can also mystify the interpretation of data which would cause the research to be regarded with disbelief. According to Leininger (1991: 92) the researcher needs to be trusted before they even try to come up with correct and trustworthy findings.

The researcher's values might also hinder the outcomes and even the research can result into falsification of the discoveries. Still, a researcher can undergo in-depth and laborious training before attempting to carry out a research. QR can be reliable and valid if it is combined with quantitative and secondary and primary research which is called triangulation or methodology pluralism (Bryman, A. 2001). Triangulation has a lot of strong points which are: skill to cross check research findings, may be used as a facilitating tool for example data gathered can be used to plan and design a goal oriented

questionnaires or survey and may support and compliment the research carried out. Triangulation can also be used to check and scrutinise information from different authors (Thatcher, 2010).

Clandinin and Connelly (2000) stated that in QR subjectivity is both outstanding strength and a possible weakness. The research techniques that can be used to draw information sometimes has weaknesses it comes with and researcher try to overcome it and reap the enormous benefits of setting subjective. Qualitative work requires reflection on the part of researchers both before and during the research process, as a way of providing context and understanding for readers. Qualitative methods generally aim to understand the experiences and attitudes of participant and the community. This method aim to answer the what, why and how than to answer how many or how much and to what extent? QR is interested in explaining real life stories.

That is to say, it targets to understand the world in which. It is concerned with the communal features of our world and seeks to answer questions about: Why individuals behave in certain way, how opinions and attitudes are formed, how people are affected by the events that go on around them and reason cultures become the way it has. More than that though, while not all qualitative researchers are on a mission to produce 'the general picture' of how things work, the qualitative habit of intimately connecting environment with explanation means that QR is capable of producing very well-founded cross-contextual generalities, rather than aspiring to more fragile de-contextual versions (Payne and Payne 2004). However qualitative researching is exciting and important.

<https://assignbuster.com/qualitative-the-societal-realm-of-the-creation/>

It is a highly rewarding activity because it engages us with things that matter, in ways that matter. Through qualitative research one can explore a wide array of measurements of the social world, including the texture and weave of everyday life, the understandings, experiences and imaginings of our research participants, the ways that social processes, institutions, discourses or relationships work, and the significance of the meanings that they generate. can do all of this qualitatively by using methodologies that celebrate richness, depth, nuance, context, multi-dimensionality and complexity rather than being embarrassed or inconvenienced by them. QR is subjective, unreliable and invalid. There are limits to the situations that can be observed according to their natural settings. The presence of the researcher can cause the participants to be uncomfortable, embarrassed, reserved, shy and causing them to withhold true feelings. This move will cause the researcher to come up with unreliable findings.

The researcher may misunderstand people's behaviour and researcher may miss out while observing and note taking for example Big Brother Africa group does not necessarily represent the majority of people in Africa. However for observation to be reliable the observer needs to be part of the group to be observed in order for him to be accepted by the rest of the group members which will make it possible for the researcher to understand the social phenomenon and how it works. Observation can sometimes produce reliable findings about certain things for example on how people behave (Payne and Payne Ibid).

Use of small groups can cause the researcher to generalise situations and limit the amount of information collected from individuals and bigger groups

may make the research more difficult and will be difficult for the researcher to make sense of the information collected. Small groups will cause the researcher to find idiosyncratic and it will be wrong for the researcher to judge majority of population using this research method. However small groups make it possible to make use of participant's natural feelings, opinions and perceptions. This technique requires the researcher to have knowledge and develop skills in the following areas: group skills, moderating, listening or observing, facilitating and analysis so that it will be easy to produce a research that will be reliable and trustworthy. QR is subjective and inherently unreliable and invalid because collection of data is time consuming. The reason why data is collected using small groups.

QR is more expensive because sometimes to get better results one needs materials for example when you want to carry out a research on the effects of poverty on school children in rural remote areas in Zimbabwe. There is need to have transport to go to those areas. The researcher needs to carry food, cloth to those children, stationary and arrangements to relocate children from very serious scenario to children's home. However QR is used to develop concepts and theories that help us understand the social world.

Which is called inductive method. Information is gathered through face to face encounters through observation or interview. Examples of methods used for data collection in QR are individual's interviews, focus groups, observation and action research. Kirk, J., and Miller, M. (1986) stated that QR is interested with the accuracy and truthfulness of the information to show its validity.

QR is subjective which causes it to be an invalid and unreliable procedure to use when you want to carry out a research. Tycross and Shield, 2004 stated that QR has tended to suggest stereotyped objectives for example Masvingo people are not clever or women are best accommodated in the kitchen. Stereotyped objectives do not bring out the truth and research based on this are invalid and unreliable. Reliability in QR is apprehensive with the dependability, immovability and repeatability of the informant's accounts as well as the investigations' ability to collect and record information accurately (Selltiz, Wrightsman and Cook 1976). The repeatability of the results whereby a researcher carried out a research for example in 2016 about child headed families and recorded the verdict and if the researcher goes back to the same environment to carry out the same research in 2017 it might not be possible to come up with the same discoveries. However qualitative research has an extraordinary set of strengths which is sometimes forgotten in the face of criticisms.

It is 'merely' circumstantial or at best explanatory, and that it is practised in casual and random ways. Conversely qualitative research devours massive potential, and its practitioners face some major tests. It deserves to be done well so that it can make fully justified claims for its own significance, effectiveness and meaning. Furthermore, it still has arguments to win and a reputation to build and maintain in the social sciences. Yet it cannot be done by rote or by recipe.

It requires a highly active engagement from its practitioners, and a great deal of effort - intellectual, practical, physical and emotional. QR is to learn how to proceed, to build and maintain its own reputation, in a manner which is

sensitive to these important issues, without getting hindered within an ultimately self-defeating debate. QR should be systematically and rigorously conducted. I do not think there are any excuses for a casual or ad hoc approach to qualitative research. This should, however, be distinguished from a rigid or structured approach, which is usually not appropriate for qualitative research. QR should be accountable for its quality and its claims, or to use Clive Seale's terminology it should be 'fallibilistic' (1999: 6).

However according to Crocker and Algina (2001) the test developer has a responsibility to " identify the sources of measurement error that would be most detrimental to useful score interpretation and design a reliability study that permits such errors to occur so that their effects can be assessed."

Before booming out a research the researcher need to carry out a pretesting or pilot testing and it gives a chance to test an instrument and allows the identification of errors before the instrument is used in the research. The instrument can be modified to lessening measurement error.