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produced by the  
same writers; lang,



Introduction This work will compare the qualitative and quantitative approach on suicide research screening carried out in America which identified suicide risk for psychiatric outpatients. Including will be a literature review to argue around suicide topics to show if there are other approaches in carrying out a suicide screening research other than using qualitative or quantitative (Finch, 1986). The qualitative and quantitative research papers were produced by the same writers; Lang, Uttaro, et al. Both papers had similar outcomes as 'low risk of suicide in the chosen demographic and geographic area'.

The subject for the key word was the public mental health system, risk screening suicide prevention by: (Lang, M. Uttaro, T et al, 2009).

Qualitative paper: The qualitative paper shows that a screening method was used to collect data, based on an incident reporting system, to monitor patients and establish if there is an increase in attempting suicide to a complete suicide. The focus was based on dynamic risk factors such as "Change in mood and thoughts or recent stressors based on family history, suicidal childhood emotional, physical and sexual abuse" (Lang, M. Uttaro, T et al, 2009). Part of this method was to send an invitation email to collect data through a secure intranet system.

Some ethical issues were identified; the assessment of the site to whether it was going to cause issue, location was not a problem as this was the aim of the researcher to target this particular area, the risk development of screening and duration of the pilot period was also considered. This was considered as low risk as information was collected anonymously, the effectiveness of staff showing that patients were low risk in suicidal

behaviours in chosen geographical areas (Lang, M. Uttaro, T et al, 2009). The

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ethical barrier was overcome through the assessment and also consent was granted by mental health authorities prior to starting the screening that made it easy for the material to be published.

(Lang, M. Uttaro, T et al, 2009). Quantitative paper: Quantitative papers show that 153 clinicians were provided with a list of randomly selected patients for a 6 month pilot period. 719 clients were randomly selected for screening but only 471 were actually screened. The percentage breakdown of the ethnicities of the participants is as follows: 56% female 44% male 78% White 17% Black 5% Asian 18% Other Each clinician screened 5 of their clients monthly, for a 6 month period (Lang, Uttaro, et al, 2009). There are advantages and disadvantages of using qualitative and quantitative.

It has been recognised that research is formed to study human behaviours and understand the world. Regardless of what approach is used it will always strive to use the appropriate research method to utilise their strengths and minimise weaknesses. (Bryman, 1988). In the United Kingdom many professionals believe that the official statistics on suicide are not always accurate, this is not limited to just the United Kingdom, but also in other countries (Samaritan, 2017).

For many different reasons the under reporting of suicide is prevalent especially in ethnic and minority groups because of misclassification. The explanation for this is due to cultural and religious beliefs, and how reports are presented to the coroners (Journal of medical ethics and history of medicine, 2014). This can cause associated stigma for families and can be

additionally attached to cultural or religious taboo. Therefore when carrying out quantitative research, considerations should be made to find an appropriate approach to include people of varying cultures and religious beliefs as such mixed methods can improve data. (Leo 2002; 2009).

According to the Suicide in the UK report there were 23.9 deaths per 100,000 males aged 45 to 59.

However men between the ages of 30 to 45 were not included from 2000 to 2001 even though the age 45 to 59 was still increasing in numbers. Reports show that 6,122 suicides of people aged 10 and above were reported in the UK in 2014, 120 lower than, 2013 which makes a 2% decrease (National Statistics, 2016).. The UK average suicide rate over all demographics was 10.8 deaths per 100,000 people in 2014.

The male suicide was 3 times more than the female rate, with 16.8 male deaths per 100,000 in comparison to 5.2 female deaths. (National Statistics, 2016). Suicide among patients with serious mental disorders like schizophrenia is a significant clinical problem (Shields et al. 2007, Haukka et al. 2008) and a major cause of injury and mortality in the world (Limosin et al. 2007), ranking as the 14th most common cause of death by the World Health Organisation (WHO), (WHO, 2014).

Studies in China show that suicide is the fifth most common cause of death (Phillips MR, Li X, Zhang Y. 2002) in contrast to the United States, where suicide is the tenth most common cause of death (Agarwal et al. 2016).

Psychiatric disorders are a well-established risk factor for suicidality (Whittier et al. 2016). Evidence suggests that suicide has been strongly associated  
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with suicide attempts (Carlborg et al. 2010). Results: It was good to use qualitative as it was specialised in the screening, which was the process of sending anonymous emails and collected data from the intranet. The enquiries were broad which allowed open ended investigations and included the values of behaviours and assumptions (Bryman, 1988). There are also downsides with using qualitative research methods on suicide screening; it was not easy to demonstrate the research to be accurate even though it was justified in the conclusion as a low risk for clients who went through screening.

They did not evaluate the type of interviews that clinicians who provided the screening did. The data was selected from an intranet which may suggest to have known how this information was obtained and risk assessed before creating the file to store on client information. It has shown that there was no time recorded to how long the interview process took individually, even although the screening period took 6 months period. (Carr, 1994). The quantitative proves that selection of the sampling was generalized to study its population because the researcher mixed gender, and other demographics which means that they had mixed religion and sexual orientations (Western Michigan University, (2017)). The paper of the screening was easy to understand and it looks precise and reliable. Disadvantages included some context which was difficult to understand on the table of data. (Carr, 1994).

Research which has been undertaken with humans has a certain level of complexity involved, which is unique with such studies due to ethical issues, beliefs and bias (Mason, J, 1994). Preventing these issues and preventing <https://assignbuster.com/introduction-were-produced-by-the-same-writers-lang/>

them from impacting the results negatively is vital (Stanley, 1990). There is evidence to show some clinicians declined to be involved in the research itself. Clinician's response was positive in theory but in practice there was concern for triggering more negative responses in patients and reluctant to get involved (Neuman, 2000). A number of people and patients stated this is a good thing to do to minimise the risk of suicide. Others did not feel strongly towards the questionnaire either way, but some people did feel it may trigger the risk of suicide. Both qualitative and quantitative show that the results are low risk (Everitt, and Hay, 1992). To evaluate the qualitative and quantitative papers there is no right or wrong way of carrying out the research depending on the target, geographical area, location and the subject (Mcdowell and Maclean, 1998).

The topic as complex as suicide may suggest the use of a different method such as a mixed method. This is because qualitative and quantitative would join together from different angles and use triangulation for an effective outcome, aiming for the bigger picture (Cassell and Symon, 1994). Literature Review: Carrying out the screening of suicide as a subject, is already anticipated to be difficult to engage the public because of ethical issues such as social engagements, environmental, political matters and also legal aspect of things. (Rocha, 2004).

DSM V and ICD10 state that suicide is not classed as an illness however it has some serious consequences of mental disorder which can be managed and treated. Some mental disorders linked to suicide include; depression, personality disorder, bipolar, substance misuse, eating disorder and more.

People who are suicidal normally experience, hopelessness, withdraw, change  
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in appearance, self-harming behaviors, life crisis and many others (Mann, et al 1999).

Research shows 50% to 75% of people who are suicidal provide a warning sign to a sibling or close friend. There is no evidence indicating that families and friends are included in research although this may influence data as bias but this can contribute in the fact of preventing suicide. (Mann, et al, 1999). It may suggest that a researcher should have used the focus groups to cover the missing gaps which disadvantaged both qualitative and quantitative. This can use both questionnaires and interviews depending on the clients (Graham, 1984). Interviews would require a very competent researcher and a significant amount of time to complete but it can also affect the research as some people do not like to be interviewed or speaking to a stranger. It also requires building of a good relationship with a client to enable the client engagement.

Ochieng ,(2009). Questionnaires are easy and fast to distribute however clients may not have time to complete and return them, they may have difficulty questions to understand as well as may target wrong populations and influence the research. Graham, H (1984). Focus group will include 1, 2 and 3 as follow.

Group one of the populations, which is never attempted or thought about any suicidal ideation using both interviews and questionnaires asking why these people have never been affected by what affect others to become suicidal. Graham, H (1984). Group two of a population of people who have attempted suicide and not succeed with it or thought about it.

According to (Graham, 1984) Some people do think about suicide but because of religious beliefs, cultural belief and other protective factors of leaving family members straggling, pets, close friends and many more facts. (Leo 2002; 2009). Finally third group of a population of people who are at higher risk and actively suicidal and have attempted before. These groups research shows that because of severe mental health issues, diagnosis of other medical conditions, victims of abuse, family history of suicidal, social issues, environmental issues and possibly fed up with life. (Samaritan, 2017). Current state research; History of suicide has come a very long way from the time it was classed as a criminal offence in all countries (Mcdowell, I. and Maclean, L, 1998). Some countries still see it as a criminal offence, therefore a stigma is still attached and this should be considered as part of the ethical issue to identify when carrying out a research looking at geographical area, religious belief, cultural background, gender age and many other factors in recent years most of the mentioned ethical issues have been identified by many researchers especially when population is involved in some particular research such as quantitative. (Neuman, 2000). Now suicide is being recognised that it can be linked to many other issues; including, family history, social issues and mental health problems and many more contributing factors (Western Michigan University, 2017). Existing knowledge: Social science researchers like Lincoln and Guba, and Schwandt accept qualitative and quantitative approaches as incompatible with each other (Lincoln and Guba, 1994). Whereas Patton and Reichardt and Cook believe that approaches can be combined if the researcher is competent and skilled (Patton, 1990), (Reichardt and Cook, 2003).



These arguments are based on different philosophical nature of different paradigm as others concentrate on the compatibility of each research these arguments can be muddled between parties. Qualitative data can be scrutinised because statistical tests can allow for comparing between the data gathered for the final conclusion (Atieno, 2009). It may be argued that a disproportionate number of females were involved in the screening program in the quantitative study despite in the United Kingdom and Ireland research shows that white males of the middle age are at higher risk of suicide than females. To prove this it would have been good to balance the genders to test this statistic (Cantor, Leenaars & Lester, 1997). To determine if there is definitely suicide attempt or ideation requires a lot of evidence for a solid conclusion.

Even coroners judge if there is suicide involved in deaths or not requires more work to come out with an effective way approach which will surely lighten clarity to statistics (Stanley, 1990). Future study; For the product development research will require mixed method especially for a wider topic like suicide screening research (Journal of medical ethics and history of medicine, 2014). Each of the approaches has strengths and limitations as such they both can benefit from combining together forming a mixed method to enable findings from a different perspective (Blaxter, Hughes, and Tight, 1996). Conclusion There are many debates about qualitative and quantitative approach, however they both have been chosen for research purposes (Difference between Qualitative and Quantitative Research, 2016). Critics and comments will always appear regardless of what methodology is used because they all have advantages and disadvantages.

The effectiveness of each approach depends on the competence of the researcher and the purpose of the research. For a subject such as suicide and its nature, it may suggest that using a mixed method to come up with a solid outcome would benefit the researcher.