

AN OVER VIEW TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN.

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It is an emergent design. It is the reflection of a desire to have the enquiry, based on realities and viewpoints of study participants .

Qualitative research: The investigation of phenomena, typically in an in-depth and holistic fashion, through the collection of rich narrative materials using a flexible research design.

Nature of Qualitative Research Design

- It involves triangulation.
- It is flexible and elastic.
- Holistic, striving for understanding of the whole.
- Requires the researcher to be in the field for a lengthy period of time.
- The researcher may be the research instrument.
- Bricolage (putting together a complex of data obtained from variety of sources.), is a commonly used technique here.
- Bricoleur – is the researcher who is doing bricolage.

Steps in Planning a Qualitative Design

- Research Design is not planned in advance.
- In the total absence of planning the data collection process may not be fixed.
- Start with a broad frame work to decide the design.
- Determine the maximum amount of time, sources available for the study.
- Develop a broad data collection method.
- Identify any opportunities for improving trust worthiness.

- Collect relevant written / photographic material about the site.
- Identify the equipment that could aid in collection and analysis of data.
- Identify the type of assistance needed.

Features of Qualitative Research Designs (QRD)

- QRD is always non experimental one.
- Setting may be in natural phenomena.
- There is no independent and dependent variables.
- Research control or manipulation may not be there.
- Masking is not necessary.
- The aim of the research is to develop understanding about phenomena as it exists in the real world.

Three main features of Qualitative Research Designs are,

1. Comparison.
2. Setting.
3. Time frame.

Comparison: No plan of comparison is made in advance. Descriptions may be compared. In making coding sheet comparison may be needed. Group comparison may be done.

Setting: Setting is usually natural. Multiple setting may be used.

Time Frame: Qualitative Research may be cross sectional with one data collection point or longitudinal with multiple data collection point.

Qualitative Research Designs (QRD) / Traditions: There is no readily available classification system of Qualitative Research Designs QRD. One useful system is to describe the QRD according to traditions. It comes from various disciplines.

Qualitative Research Traditions are:

- I) Anthropology /ethnography.
- II) Psychology /Phenomenology. (Psychology /philosophy)
- III) Sociology. (Grounded theory)
- IV) Socio – linguistics /Discourse analysis. (socio linguistic/ conversation analysis)
- V) Historical.

I. Anthropology. (ethnography)

- It is concerned with human culture. It is a study of cultural pattern. Culture is not visible or tangible. It is inferred from words, and actions of members in a group. Too much of field work is required to study culture. It is of two types – macro and micro ethnography.
- **Micro ethnography:** It is the study of a particular part of a culture.
- **Macro ethnography:** It focuses on narrowly defined cultures.
- The views of ethnographic researcher are **Emic perspective, Etic perspective.**
- **Emic perspective (Insiders view):** the way members of a culture view their world.
- **Etic perspective (outsiders view)** – it is a way the researcher view the culture of a particular group.
- Researcher often use **Tacit Knowledge** to reveal the culture. It is the deeply embedded information about the culture.
- Researcher may be used as an instrument.
- Three broad information required by the researcher are:
 - i. **Behavior:** what members of a culture do.

ii. **Artifact:** what people make and use.

iii. **Speech:** what people say.

- Commonly used data sources are observation, interview, records, charts, any physical evidence. Participant observation may be used.
- **Eco centric network analysis** may be preferred by researcher as it focuses on pattern of relationship and network of individuals.
- **Performance ethnography:** It is a scripted and staged re-enactment of ethnographically derived notes that reflect an interpretation of the culture .

Types of ethno graphic research: There are 3 types.

1. **Ethno nursing research:** The study and analysis of the local or indigenous people's view points, beliefs, and practices about nursing care behavior.
2. **Institutional ethnography:** Institutional ethnography is used in fields such as nursing, social work, and community health to study the organization of professional services. Institutional ethnography seeks to understand the social determinants of people's everyday experiences, especially institutional work processes.
3. **Auto ethnography:** A type of ethnography that involves self-scrutiny (including study of groups or culture to which researchers belong) is auto ethnography. Auto ethnography offers numerous advantages, the most obvious being ease of access, ease of recruitment, and the ability to get particularly candid, in-depth data based on pre established trust and rapport.

II. Psychology /Phenomenology (psychology / philosophy)

- It has its roots in philosophy and psychology. It deals with lived experiences of human.

- **Hermeneutics:** It uses lived experiences as a tool for better understanding of socio – cultural political and historical contexts.
- Four aspects of lived experience that are of interest are:
 - Lived space. (spaciality)
 - Lived body. (corporality)
 - Lived time. (temporality)
 - Lived human relation. (relationality)
- **Phenomenology** is of two types:
 - a. Descriptive phenomenology.
 - b. Interpretive phenomenology.

a. Descriptive phenomenology: It is careful description of ordinary conscious experience of everyday life. It involves four steps:

1. **Bracketing :** Bracketing is the process of identifying and holding in abeyance preconceived beliefs and opinions about the phenomenon under study. Bracketing is an iterative process that involves preparing, evaluating, and providing systematic ongoing feedback about the effectiveness of the bracketing.
2. **Intuiting:** Occurs when researchers remain open to the meanings attributed to the phenomenon by those who have experienced it.
3. **Analyzing:** It involves coding organizing data.
4. **Describing:** Here the phenomena under the study is described in depth.

b. Interpretive phenomenology: It insists interpreting and understanding not just describing human experience. The goals of interpretive phenomenological research are to enter another's world and to discover the practical wisdom, possibilities, and understanding found there. Gadamer (1976) described the interpretive process as a circular relationship known as the hermeneutic circle where one understands the whole of a text (e.g a transcribed view) in terms of its parts and parts of its whole.

The discipline of psychology focuses on other traditions also as follows:

- **Ethology (Psychology):** It deals with behavior. It studies the human behavior as it evolves in natural context. Observational method is commonly used here.
- **Ecological psychology (psychology)-** It deals with influence of environment of human behavior It studies the inter dependence of human being and their environment.

III. Grounded theory. (Sociology)

It deals with social, psychological and structural process in the social settings. It deals with the manner by which people make a sense of social interactions. It is an important method to study nursing phenomena. Here the aim is to understand the action by focusing on the main problem. The manner by which people resolve the main problem is called core variable. In grounded theory, behavior is a pattern that a person engages in, it is not the person. Here the research problem and the process to solve the problem are discovered during the study. Sampling, data collection and data analysis occurs simultaneously. Steps used are - collect data, categorize them, describe central phenomena then recycle the earlier steps. Constant comparison is used. Interview, observation are the main data sources.

The discipline of sociology which focus on other traditions also as follows:

- **Ethno Methodology:** It studies how people make sense of their everyday activities and interpret their social world to behave in socially acceptable ways. Researcher studies about a social group's norms and assumptions. Rare experiments may be carried out.
- **Symbolic Interaction (interactionism):** It focuses on the manner in which people make sense of social interactions and interpretations they attach to social symbols such as language.
- **Semiotics:** It is a signs and its meanings. A signs is any entity or object that carries information for example any diagram pictures, map.

- **Discourse analysis/socio linguistic/ conversation analysis:** It deals with human communication. It strives to understand rules, mechanism and structure of conversation. It focuses on understanding of an action that a given kind of talk performs. The data used here is usually conversations between people.

VI. Historical Research.

It is the systematic collection and critical evaluation of data related to past occurrences. It answers questions about causes, effects, trends related to past events. The goal of Historical Research is to discover new knowledge not the summary of existing one.

Types:

- Biographical history: study of political leaders, nursing leaders.
- Social history: study of a particular period.
- Intellectual history: where historical ideas, or ways of thinking are scrutinized.

Collecting Historical Data: the main sources of Historical Data are:

- Written records: diary, letters, newspaper minutes of meeting, medical / legal documents.
- Non written material: visual, audio material.
- Interview method.
- Primary source: first hand information.
- Secondary source: second or third hand information.

Other Types of Qualitative Research.

1. Case study.
2. Narrative analysis.
3. Descriptive qualitative study.

Case study: In depth investigation of single entity (individual, family, group, institution, community). Data collected about present and past experiences, situational factors relevant to the problem.

Types of Case Study.

- Single case: holistic.
- Single case: embedded.
- Multiple cases: holistic
- Multiple cases: embedded.

In Holistic design, the global nature of the case is studied:

In Embedded design, Attention is given to sub units.

- Intrinsic case study: Researcher does not have to select the case.
- Instrumental case study: Researcher begins with a research problem.

Narrative analysis: It determines how individuals make sense of events in their lives.

Descriptive Qualitative Study: Some qualitative studies do not fit into any type of research it is called descriptive qualitative study.

Conclusion

Qualitative research is a systematic, interactive, subjective approach used to describe life experience. Qualitative methods focus on the whole of human experience and these methods permit broader understanding and deeper insight into complex human behaviors.

In the earlier years of nursing research, the researchers extensively valued the scientific method and used quantitative approaches. Recently, nurse researchers come to appreciate the complexity of nursing phenomena, the value of exploring the subjective experiences of patients and nurse researchers are open to use qualitative approaches to conduct research studies.

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