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Subject	Qualitative technique (Applied)
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Exam	Final

Q1

Fundamental Research ethics principles?

① (16686)

There are a number of ethical principles that should be taken into account when performing undergraduate and master level dissertation research. At the core these ethical principles stress the need to (a) do good (known as beneficence) and (b) do no harm.

In practice these ethical principles mean that as a researcher you need to obtain informed consent from potential research participants (b) minimize the risk of harm to participants (c) protect their anonymity and confidentiality (d) avoid using deceptive practices and (e) give participants the right to withdraw from your research

① Minimising the risk of harm

Dissertation research should not harm participants
There are a number of types of harm that participants can be subjected

- ① Physical harm to participants
- ② Psychological distress
- ③ Social disadvantage
- ④ Harm to participants? financial status
- ⑤ An invasion of participants? privacy & anonymity

B) Obtaining Informed Consent

one of the foundation of research ethics is the idea of informed consent. Simply put informed consent means that participants should understand (a) they are taking part in research (b) what the research requires of them. such information may include the purpose of the research, the method being used the possible outcomes of the research as well as associated demands.

C) protecting anonymity and Confidentiality

protecting the anonymity and confidentiality of research participants is another practical component of research ethics. After all participants will typically only be willing to volunteer information especially information of a private or sensitive nature researcher agree to hold information in confidence.

D) Avoiding deceptive practices

At first slight deceptive practices fly in the face of informed consent. After all how can participants know (a) that they are taking part in research (b) what the research requires of them if they are being deceived? this is part of what makes the use of deceptive practices controversial.

Q1 continued

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Principle Five

Providing the Right to withdraw

Research participants should always have the right to withdraw from the research process. Furthermore participants should have the right to withdraw at any stage in the research. When participants choose to withdraw from the research process they should not be pressured in any way to try and stop them from withdrawing.

Q1 Completed

Q2

Background

An increasing volume of qualitative research and articles about qualitative methods has being published recently. However compared with the extensive debate in social sciences literature there has been little consideration of the ethical research issues surrounding qualitative research.

Research Ethics in Qualitative Research

Ethical issues are important phenomena in any kind of Research. The research process creates tension between the aims of research to make generalisations for the good of others and the rights of participants to maintain privacy. Ethics pertains to doing good and avoiding harm. Harm can be prevented or reduced through the application of appropriate ethical principles. Thus the protection of human subjects in any research study is imperative.

Violation of human ^{rights in the name of} research have been among the darkest events in the history. The nature of ethical problem in qualitative research studies is subtle and different compared to problems in quantitative research. For example potential ethical conflicts exist in regard to how a researcher gain access to a community group and in the effects the researcher may have.

In qualitative research researchers rely heavily on collecting data through interviews observations written materials and audiovisual material. There is a need for guidance at least to stimulate debate about the ethics of qualitative research.

Risk to participants in qualitative research

The lack of emphasis on ethical aspects of qualitative research may relate to a belief that is unlikely to harm participants.

Anxiety & distress

Qualitative research aims at an in depth understanding of an issue including an exploration of the reason and context for participants belief & actions so is often designed to be probing in nature.

Reducing the risk of harm

A fundamental ethical requirement of all research is that scientifically sound It should be properly designed and carried out by researchers with adequate levels of expertise and supervision. It should also be worth doing in the sense that the results are likely to lead to tangible benefit. It is the nature of qualitative research that unexpected themes arise during the analysis.

Q2 Conclusion

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The detailed guidelines which exist for carrying out research have been designed largely for use in relation to quantitative research. Although the ethical principles governing qualitative and quantitative research are essentially the same we have outlined a number of special ethical issues which arise in relation to qualitative research.

We have summarized the possible drawbacks of guidelines for qualitative research that they be overprescriptive inadequate or impractical. Unlike social scientists many researchers are not trained in philosophical and political aspects of research so many require more guidance on the ethical issues. Research is needed in order to ascertain the risk to participants in qualitative studies

Q2 completed.

Qualitative Research

Introduction

Qualitative Research is a type of scientific research. In general terms, scientific research consists of an investigation that

- * seeks answer to a question
- * Systematically uses a predefined set of procedure to answer the question collects evidence
- * produces finding that were not determined in advance

Qualitative Research shares these characteristics. Additionally it seeks to understand a given research problem or topic from the perspective of the local population it involves. Qualitative research is especially effective in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinions, behaviors, and social contexts of particular populations.

- * produces finding that are applicable beyond the immediate boundaries of the study.

What we learn from qualitative research?

The strength of qualitative research is its ability to provide complex textual descriptions of how people experience a given research issue. It provides information about the human side of an issue that is the often contradictory behaviors, beliefs, opinions, emotions and relationships of individuals.

Qualitative methods are also effective in identifying intangible factors, such as social norms, socioeconomic status, gender roles, ethnicity & religion whose roles in the research issue may not be readily apparent when used along with quantitative methods. Qualitative research can help us to interpret and better understand the complex reality of a given situation & the implication of quantitative data. Although findings from qualitative data can often be extended to people with characteristics similar to those in the study population gaining a rich and complex understanding of a specific social context in this sense qualitative research slightly differ from scientific research in general.

Q3 Completed.

- Q4 Comparing Quantitative & Qualitative Research (16686) ⑨
- Quantitative and qualitative research methods differ primarily in
- their analytical objectives
 - the types of questions they pose
 - the types of data collection instruments they use
 - the forms of data they produce
 - the degree of flexibility built into study design

Most important difference between quantitative and qualitative methods?

The key difference between quantitative & qualitative methods is their flexibility. Generally quantitative methods are fairly inflexible. With quantitative methods such as surveys and questionnaires for example researchers ask all participants identical questions in the same order. The response categories from which participants may choose are closed ended or fixed. The advantage of this inflexibility is that it allows for meaningful comparison of responses across particular and study sites. However it requires a thorough understanding of the important questions to ask the best way to ask them and the range of possible responses.

General
framework

Quantitative

① Seek to confirm hypotheses

② Use high structured method such as questionnaires, surveys

Qualitative

① Seek to explore phenomena

② Instrument use more flexible

Analytical objectives

① To quantify variation

② To predict causal relationships

③ To describe variation

④ To describe & explain relationship

Question format

closed ended

① open ended

Data format

Numerical

Assigned numerical values

② Textual

obtained from audio tapes video tapes

Summary

When collecting and analyzing data quantitative research deals with numbers and statistics while qualitative research deals with words and meaning. Both are important for gaining different kinds of knowledge.

Quantitative research is expressed in numbers & graph. It is used to test or confirm theories and assumptions. This type of research can be used to establish generalized facts about a topic.

Common quantitative methods include experiment, observation, recorded numbers & survey.

Common methods in qualitative include interviews with open ended questions, observations described in words and literatures, reviews that explore concepts & theories.

Q4 completed