

Qualitative Research Proposal

- Researchers need a clear picture of the issues and questions that they want to investigate, as well as ideas of how they are going to go about investigating them, but always with an openness of mind to improvise, revise and adjust.
- Writing a proposal for a qualitative study is therefore a challenge, as the qualitative researcher "designs studies by conducting them - as opposed to conducting studies by design"
- Quantitative researchers generally believe they know what they do not know (i.e. knowing the type of knowledge they expect to obtain by doing a study and then striving to obtain it).
- A qualitative researcher, by contrast, enters the study "not knowing what is known" (i.e. not knowing the phenomenon that will drive the inquiry forward).
- The qualitative proposal writer can therefore only anticipate how the study will proceed.

• Qualitative research begins by accepting that there is a range of different ways of making sense of the world (that the truth is only valid in a specific context) and is concerned with discovering the meanings seen by those who are being researched and with understanding their view of the world rather than that of the researcher

Process of the qualitative proposal

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- Qualitative researchers often find themselves in a "catch-22" situation. They have intentionally selected a qualitative research design, as little is known about the phenomenon to be studied; yet it is expected to write how data analysis will be done when the data is not known. However, it is imperative that the researcher must convince the proposal evaluation committee or funding agency reviewers in order to be allowed to proceed with the study.
- In response to this situation, Morse and Field (1996:35) remark that "clearly, developing a rigid plan for a qualitative project, including detailed plans for data collection and analysis, becomes impossible when writing qualitative proposals". Unlike positivist research, there is no single accepted framework for a qualitative research proposal.
- To present an acceptable proposal means shifting away from one's own concerns and thinking about the questions that the reader(s) or reviewer(s) of the research proposal will be asking (Silverman, 2000:113).
- These questions do not necessarily differ from the questions asked in quantitative research, but will alert one to the possible questions that will be asked.
- The questions a research proposal must answer, are: (i) Why should anyone be interested in my research? (ii) Is the research design credible, achievable and carefully explained - in other words, is it logical? (iii) Is the researcher capable of doing the research? (Bottoriff, 2002:7). Silverman (2000:113 -117) suggests that the researcher (whether qualitative or quantitative) answers these questions properly.
- This can be achieved by focusing on the following guidelines: be practical, be persuasive, make broader links, aim for crystal clarity and plan before you write.

قراءة يا جماعة بس انه كيف بلشت قصة الرغبة في كتابة proposal

Be practical →



Indicate to the members of the proposal evaluation committee or funding agency reviewers how your research will address the identified research problem or solve an issue, for example, staff morale or patients' perceptions of quality of care.



وضح لأعضاء لجنة تقييم الاقتراح أو مراجعي وكالة التمويل كيف سيعالج بحثك مشكلة البحث المحددة أو يحل مشكلة ، على سبيل المثال ، معنويات الموظفين أو تصورات المرضى لجودة الرعاية.

Be persuasive → كن مقنعا →



"the first principle of grantsmanship (and for that matter approval of your proposal) is to recognize that a good proposal is an argument ... the proposal must take a case to the proposal evaluation committee or funding agency that the research question is interesting and that the study is important. Thus the proposal must be written persuasively."



المبدأ الأول للمنح (والموافقة على اقتراحك) هو الاعتراف بأن الاقتراح الجيد هو حجة ... يجب أن يرفع الاقتراح القضية إلى لجنة تقييم الاقتراح أو وكالة التمويل بأن سؤال البحث مثير للاهتمام وأن الدراسة مهمة. وبالتالي يجب كتابة

- As a researcher you must be balanced, with a realistic understanding of what you can achieve
- To be persuasive implies that "you must convince other people, like other researchers, research funding agencies, educational institutions, and supervisors that your research is worth spending scarce resources on
- You convince people of the value of your work by showing them how your research will make a difference to the world, or by identifying a dilemma in existing theory which your research will help resolve"

Make broader links → إنشاء روابط أوسع



• The researcher should demonstrate in the proposal the understanding of the broader implications of the proposed research.



• Morse (1994:227) suggests that one way of achieving this is to "place the problem in context to show, for instance, that when we understand this, we will be able to work on that". For example, indicate how your research will improve practice or influence policy

Aim for crystal clarity

- The aim of the researcher should be for clearly stated, in simple language that describes the research in a way that non-specialists can comprehend



- Morse (1994:227) argues that the researcher should resist the temptation to lapse into pure jargon, as "some of the reviewers will be from other disciplines, and the proposal writer should assume nothing and explain everything"



- يجادل مورس (1994: 227) بأن الباحث يجب أن يقاوم إغراء السقوط في المصطلحات البحثية ، لأن "بعض المراجعين سيكونون من تخصصات أخرى ، ويجب على كاتب الاقتراح ألا يفترض شيئا ويشرح كل شيء".

- Silverman (2000:115) gives advice to the researcher and states that the proposal should be concise, using short, simple sentences



- يقدم سيلفرمان (2000: 115) المشورة للباحث ويذكر أن الاقتراح يجب أن يكون موجزا ، باستخدام جمل قصيرة وبسيطة

Plan before you write



- Remember the saying "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."



- It is important that the writer plans the process, as the proposal should not only demonstrate that it is based on an intelligent understanding of the existing literature, but it must also show that the writer has thought about the time needed to conduct each stage of the research



- Time management is embedded in the planning process.



- The proposal will also be judged on the researcher's account of how time will be used. Arber (1993:35) notes that one needs "to adopt a systematic and logical approach to research, the key to which is the planning and management of your time".

Structure of the qualitative proposal

Cover page

Abstract



- The abstract is a synopsis of the proposal; yet it is important that it is comprehensive enough to inform the evaluators or reviewers, and to introduce the project

- It should include a short introduction to the research problem, the research question, research purpose and objectives, followed by the research design and research method.

- The abstract is usually 250- 300 words long, but this is often dictated by the committee guidelines or the funding agency.

- The inclusion of no more than five keywords is advisable at the end of the abstract.

- Structure can be given to the abstract by adding headings, i.e. Background, Aim (Purpose and specific objectives), Data Source, Method, Results and Conclusion, followed by Keywords.

Introduction



- Begin with something interesting that immediately catches attention.

- Introduce the question and what it is that you want to know or understand, and explain the interest in the topic

- The introduction must get the attention of the reader and convince him/her of the value of the study, or, as Sandelowski (2002:9) describes it, it must "set the stage".

Review of the literature

- Relevant literature should be cited that demonstrates the need for the research study in such a manner that it convinces the evaluators or reviewers that the study is worthwhile. "Literature consists of all written sources relevant to the topic you have selected" [or the phenomenon under investigation]

- It is often a challenge to include all relevant or most supportive literature as data, knowledge and information availability expand daily in the digitally enhanced knowledge environment, doubling every eighteen months in 2008.

Research problem (and research question)



- As research is a logical process, the research problem is a synthesis of the introduction and literature review; in other words, it is a "diagnosis" of the problem. The problem can be broad, but must be specific enough to convince the reviewers that it is worth focusing on

Research purpose and objectives



- The research purpose (or goal, or aim) gives a broad indication of what the researcher wishes to achieve in the research.
- The purpose usually indicates the type of study to be conducted, i.e. identify, describe, explain, or predict.

Research purpose and objectives (example)

- "The aim of this research is to develop best practice guidelines for counselling for HIV testing during pregnancy.
- This aim is achieved by means of the following objectives:
 - To explore and describe the factors that influence pregnant women's decision to be tested for HIV in selected antenatal clinics in the North West Province;
 - To explore and describe the factors that influence the counselling for HIV testing during pregnancy according to counsellors who practice in selected antenatal clinics in the North West Province;
 - To describe the current practices regarding counselling for HIV testing during pregnancy in selected clinics in the North West Province; and
 - To describe the evidence regarding counselling for HIV testing during pregnancy by means of systematic review

Research design



- Qualitative studies are always contextual, as the data is only valid in a specific context.
- The researcher can then follow with a short description of each component.
- In the description of a contextual study it is important to include a description of the context or setting in which the research will be conducted. Also explain why this setting was chosen

Research method

- The research design will influence your decisions about research methods.
- Research Method includes the steps of population and sample, data collection, ensuring rigor and data analysis



مقرآتهمش



بس عليها سؤال باست

Population and sample



the definition of the population depends on the sample criteria and the similarity of participants in the various settings.

- A sample is a subset of the population that is selected for a particular study. Name the sampling technique you will use and defend its use, for example motivate why you would use purposive sampling. State the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and lastly project the size of the sample (n).

Data collection



- With an inductive strategy the researcher would embark upon the project without working from an explicit conceptual framework, and merely use a central theoretical statement to guide the research.

- In the deductive strategy the researcher embarks upon a research project with a clear conceptual framework in mind. This may be a model, a theory, or a typology.

- The use of a deductive strategy leads to a relatively rigid manner of conceptualisation, operationalisation, and data collection, and will ultimately constitute the frame of reference for analysis and interpretation

- It is important that the researcher describes the kind of data that will be collected, e.g. examination of existing documents, field notes, audiotapes, focus groups, videos, internet-based data, etc); and how data will be collected e.g. interviews, discourse analysis, etc. The method must be described in detail.

- Rigor must be reflected throughout the proposal.

Data analysis

Data analysis

- Describe the intended data analysis procedure (coding, sorting, etc).
- In explaining data reduction the researcher provides detail of write-ups of field notes, transcription procedures and the use of computer programmes (if planned).
- For the description of data analysis, relevant methods with citations must be included.

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Ethical considerations

Dissemination plan

- The researcher should provide a condensed description of the plan that will be utilised to disseminate results, i.e. publication in peer-reviewed journals and paper or poster presentations at conferences.

Budget

- A notion which interferes with the positive perception of qualitative inquiry is the idea that qualitative research is inexpensive to conduct (Morse, 2003:847).
- This is a myth. Qualitative research is not predictable; hence when the researcher prepares a research budget, he/she should predict and cost all aspects of the research, and then add an additional allowance for unpredictable disasters, delays and rising costs.
- Morse and Field (1996:43) refer to specific aspects that should be included in the budget: the number of participations cannot be predicted, because data will be collected until saturation, but an estimation must be included; recording of data (audiotapes, recorder, batteries, microphone); transcripts of interviews (on average, a fast typist will need three hours to transcribe a clearly recorded 45-minute interview); equipment (make, model number and actual price); personnel budget (include employee benefits); supplies (telephone, stationary); travel; cost of attending a conference for dissemination. All items in the budget should be justified.

Timeline



- The timeline is a schedule or work plan for the completion of the research (Morse&Field, 1996:42-43).
- The plan includes all the research activities to be completed, the predicted length of time that each activity will take to complete and when it will be performed.
- The plan can be described as text, but as several tasks may be conducted concurrently, it is often presented as a table or graph.
- A possibility is the use of the Gantt chart. A Gantt chart is a standard tool that can be used by the researcher to structure the timeline of the project, i.e. specific activities with target dates.
- Qualitative researchers are often very optimistic about the time to be allowed for the research activities, but the qualitative researcher can experience numerous delays, for instance; delays with interviews and the time-consuming process of qualitative data analysis.
- Morse and Field (1996:43) advise that the researcher should estimate how long each activity will take and then triple the time. Such leeway is important when funds are requested, to ensure that there is adequate funding for staff and for the completion of the project.

Appendices

- **Appendices are documents that support the proposal and application.**
- **The appendices will be specific for each proposal, but documents that are usually required include: informed consent form; telephone consent; verification of ethical approval; letters of approval from research site; letters of support (in case of funding application); curricula vitae of researcher (principal investigator) and others members of the research team**

Past paper

1-Which section of a research article can often be written even before data collection begins?

- Recommendations.
- Methods.
- Results.
- Discussion.

Ans : B

2-Good research proposals will always:

- Focus on the Harvard style.
- Focus on the research objectives.
- Focus on the APA style.
- Provide respondent names and addresses

Ans : B

3-Which of the following is usually required when data will be collected through interaction with individuals, or identifiable private information will be collected?

- Abbreviated review of the research proposal.
- Expedited review of the research proposal.
- Exemption from review of the research proposal.
- Full review of the research proposal.

4-Why do you need to review the existing literature?

- To help in your general studying.
- To find out what is already known about your area of interest.
- Because without it, you could never reach the required word-count.
- To make sure you have a long list of references.

Ans : B

5-According to Morse and Field (1996), deciding the timeline of the qualitative research projects is based on:

- a. The researcher should adhere to the recommendation of the Research Ethics Committee to determine timeline.**
- b. Estimation of how long each activity will take is an appropriate timeline.**
- c. Estimation of how long each activity will take and then double the time.**
- d. Gatekeepers must estimate the required timeline.**
- e. Estimation of how long each activity will take and then triple the time.**

Ans : E

6-Which of the following is not normally included in a written account of qualitative research?

- a. An explanation of the design of the study.**
- b. A decision to accept or reject the null hypothesis.**
- c. Participants and study setting.**
- d. An introduction, locating the research in its theoretical context.**

Ans : B

7-Which of the following can be included the introduction?

- All of them (study purpose, rationale, grab attention)**

8-Literature review is:

- Analysis of existing knowledge**

9-In the literature review:

- analytic synthesis of research and seeing what's already known**

10-To organize time and resources:

- all (make a timetable, decide a budget, know what's available)**

11-when can participants withdraw:

- anytime no reason**

12-timeline in proposal:

- estimate then triple**

13-standard tool for timeline in proposal:

- Gantt chart**

14-not included in proposal:

- results**

15-One of the problems facing researchers is needing a track record to attract funding, while not being able to get the funding needed to build up a track record.

This problem is an example of:

- Catch-22 situation**