

Qualitative Data Analysis:

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Qualitative data analysis is a reflexive process that begins as data are being collected, rather than after data collection has ceased. Next to his or her field notes or interview transcripts, the qualitative analyst jots down ideas about the meaning of the text and how it might relate to other issues. The process of reading through the data and interpreting them continues throughout the project. The analyst adjusts the data collection process itself when it begins to appear that additional concepts need to be investigated or new relationships explored.

• Qualitative Data Analysis as an Art -

According to W.L. Miller and Crabtree, the process of qualitative data analysis is described by some as involving as much "art" as science, or as a "dance". In this artful way, analyzing text involves both inductive and deductive processes. The researcher generates concepts and linkages between them based on reading the text and also checks the text to see whether those concepts and interpretations are reflected.

• Techniques of Qualitative Data Analysis:

The most

typical steps that are shared by most approaches to qualitative data analysis include: -

- 1) Documentation of the data and the process of data collection.
- 2) Organization or categorization of the data into concepts.
- 3) Connection of the data to show how one concept may influence another.
- 4) Corroboration or legitimization, by evaluating alternative explanations, challenging validity and

searching for negative cases

• (5) Representing the account (reporting the findings).

① Documentation method! — Documentation is critical to qualitative research for several reasons: It is essential for keeping track of what will become a rapidly growing volume of notes, tapes and documents; it provides a way of developing an ~~outline~~ outline for the analytic process; and it encourages ongoing conceptualizing and strategizing about the text.

② Conceptualization, Coding and Categorizing: — Identifying and refining important concepts is a key part of the iterative process of qualitative research. Stake provides an example: "More often, analytic insights are tested against new observations, the initial statement of problems and concepts is refined, the researcher then collects more data, interacts with the data again, and the process continues."

③ Examining relationships and displaying data: — Examining relationships is the centerpiece of the analytic process, because it allows the researcher to move from simple description of the people and settings to explanations of why things happened as they did with those people in that setting. The process of examining relationships can be captured in a matrix that shows how different concepts are connected, or perhaps what causes are linked with what effects.

④ Authenticating Conclusions: — A qualitative researcher's conclusions should be assessed by their ability to provide a credible explanation for some aspect of social life. That explanation should capture group members' tacit knowledge of the social processes that were observed, not just their verbal statements about these processes.

5) Reflexivity:— Qualitative data analysts, more often than quantitative researchers, display real sensitivity to how a social situation or process is interpreted from a particular background and set of values and not simply based on the situation itself. Researchers are only human, after all, and must rely on their Different methods of Qualitative research:—

(i) Phenomenology:— In it researcher attempts to understand how one or more individual experience a phenomenon. For example, take an interview of mothers who lost their children and ask them to describe their experience of the deaths of their children.

(ii) Ethnography:— Ethnography is the study of people in naturally occurring setting or 'fields' by means of methods which capture their social meanings and ordinary activities, involving the researcher participating directly in the setting, if not so the activities, in order to collect data in a systematic manner, but without being imposed on them externally.

(iii) Case Study Research:— It is a form of qualitative research that is focused on providing a detailed account of one or more cases.

(iv) Grounded Theory:— Qualitative approach to generate and develop a theory from data that the researcher collects.

(v) Historical Research:— Research about events that occurred in the past. e.g. study of corporal punishment in the 19th century.

Thus, qualitative research is naturalistic, ethnographic and participatory in its approach. Ontological, epistemological and methodological framework together constitute the paradigm. This is also termed as interpretative framework and is guided by a set of beliefs and feelings about the world and how it should be understood and studied.