

Approved: 9th Senate Meeting

Course Title: Advance Qualitative Research Methods

Course Number: HS 621

Credits: 4-0-0-4

Pre-requisites: Consent of the Course Instructor

Course Description:

This course aims at offering an introduction to qualitative research methods for PhD students (Psychology as well as others). Participants will learn about the usefulness of qualitative research methods, the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of this type of research, various approaches and schools of thought, as well as about particular research methods. Finally, the course will also place qualitative approaches and methods within the broader research design, i.e., in individual PhD work. But most of all, the course will help the participants to make progress in the formulation of their problem statement, their research design, qualitative data collection, and analysis of qualitative data.

Course Contents:

Unit -I: Foundations of Qualitative Research (6 Hours)

Nature-characteristics-ontology-epistemology-methodology-objectivism-naturalism-positivism-steps-primacy of data-contextualization-triangulation-History of Qualitative Research, Qualitative Research Process: conceptualizing problem, conceptual mapping, Theoretical Sampling, Theoretical Saturation; Negative Cases in data; Comparing & Contrasting with quantitative research.

Unit -II: Major Paradigms and Approaches in Qualitative Research (9 Hours)

Empirico-Analytical: Positivism-Natural Sciences; Interpretive: Phenomenology-Symbolic Interactionism-Hermeneutics; Critical paradigm: Psychoanalytic-Marxist-Feminist- Phenomenology-Ethnography-Ethno methodology-Grounded theory-case study-Participatory action research-Historical research-Descriptive research.

Unit -III: Qualitative Data Collection Methods (12 Hours)

Interview: Structured interview, semi-structured interview, unstructured interview, individual interview, in depth interview -Observation: direct observation, indirect observation, participant observation, field observation-Focus groups-Content analysis-life histories-narrative inquiry-projective tests-dairy method-role play-simulation-case study-document studies-key informants.

Unit -IV: Analysing Qualitative Data (12 Hours)

Characteristics and applications- Coding of qualitative data – Axial coding-Selective coding-Content analysis-tape analysis-conversation analysis-typology-taxonomy-constant comparison-grounded theory-analytic induction-logical analysis/matrix analysis-event analysis/micro analysis-metaphorical analysis-domain analysis-hermeneutical analysis-discourse analysis-heuristic analysis-narrative analysis-semiotics-interaction analysis-dilemma analysis- logical and inductive analysis-illustrative method-analogies- Meta-analysis.

Unit -V: Ethics and Evaluation of Qualitative Research (5 Hours)

Ethics in qualitative research: Protection from harm, respect for individual dignity, right to self-determination, right to privacy, confidentiality, informed consent, right to withdraw, researcher safety, deception-debriefing, use of incentives, honesty and integrity in the research process-Methodological rigour: congruence, responsiveness to social context, Appropriateness, Adequacy, Transparency- Interpretive rigour: Authenticity, Coherence, Reciprocity, Typicality, and Permeability.

Suggested Reading:

1. Berg, B. (1989). *Qualitative research methods*. Boston: Pearson.
2. Denzin, N. K. & Y. Lincoln (eds.) (2005). *Handbook of Qualitative Research* (3rd edition). Thousand Oaks, CA.: Sage
3. Flick, U. (2006). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research* (3rd edition). London: Sage Publications.
4. Flick, U. (2007). *The SAGE Qualitative Research Kit* London: Sage Publications.
5. Gubrium, J. F., & J.A. Holstein (2002). *Handbook of interview research:*

- context & method*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage
6. Hammersley, M., & Atkinson, P. (1995). *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. London: Routledge.
 7. Miles, M. & M. Huberman (1994). *Qualitative Data Analysis*. London: Sage. 2nd edition.
 8. Silverman, D. (ed.) (2004). *Qualitative Research*. London: Sage Publications
 9. Silverman, D. (2006). *Interpreting Qualitative Data* (3rd edition). London: Sage Publications.