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**MATRIC NUMBER: 16/MHS05/005**

1) quantitative data collection methods with relevant examples

Quantitative data: this is numerical and can be mathematically computed. Quantitative data measure uses different scales which can be classified as nominal scale, ordinal scale, interval scale, and ratio scale. Quantitative data collection techniques rely on random sampling and structured data collection instruments that fits diverse experiences into predetermined response. They use a systematic standardized approach and employ methods such as surveys and ask questions. It is important to note that for peer-based programs quantitative data collection approaches often proves to be difficult to implement for agencies as lack of necessary resources to ensure rigorous implementation of survey and frequently experienced low participation and loss to follow up rates are commonly experienced factors.

Types of quantitative collection methods

1. Experiments/clinical trials
2. Observing and recording well-defined events (e.g. average waiting time to see a doctor)
3. Obtaining relevant data from management information systems
4. Questionnaires survey: survey research is often used to assess thoughts, opinions, and feelings. Survey research can be specific and limited or it can have more global, widespread goals. Questionnaires allows easy processing of data collected. A good questionnaire must avoid irrelevant question, avoid abbreviation, avoid negative wording, investigator and respondents have same interpretations of questions, clear and conscious direction on how to fill or complete, neat and attractive.
5. Personal interview
6. Mail
7. Documents
8. Chart review
9. Focus group discussion
10. In-depth interview
11. Ethnographic methods

2) qualitative data collection methods with relevant examples

qualitative methods: qualitative data collection methods are exploratory in nature and are mainly concerned with gaining insights and understanding on underlying reasons and motivations. It is noted that qualitative methods are often regarded as providing rich data about real life people and situations and being more able to make sense of behaviour and to understand behaviour with its wider context.

Types of qualitative data collection methods

1. In-depth interviews eg. Key informant interview
2. Focus group discussion; it is a rapid assessment, semi-structured data gathering methods in which a purposively selected set of participants gather to discuss issues and concerns based on a list of key themes drawn up by the researcher
3. Observation eg. Participant observation, checklist, mapping
4. Life histories
5. Ethnography/case studies