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MATRIC NUMBER; 16/MHS02/007

COURSE CODE; NSC414

COURSE; RESEARCH IN NURSING

QUESTIONS

1. Explain the following concepts used in qualitative research
2. Trustworthiness
3. Saturation of data
4. Content analysis approach
5. In-depth interview guide

ANSWERS

1. TRUSTWORTHINESS

Trustworthiness or rigor of a study refers to the degree of confidence in data, interpretation, and methods used to ensure the quality of a study (Pilot & Beck, 2014). In each study, researchers should establish the protocols and procedures necessary for a study to be considered worthy of consideration by readers (Amankwaa, 2016). Data trustworthiness has four key components: Credibility, Transferability, Dependability, and Conformability.

1. Credibility

The credibility is involved in establishing that the results of the research are believable. This is a classic example of ‘quality not quantity’. It depends more on the richness of the information gathered, rather than the amount of data gathered. There are many techniques to gauge the accuracy of the findings, such as data triangulation, triangulation through multiple analysts and ‘member checks’. In reality the participants/readers are the only ones who can reasonably judge the credibility of the researcher.

1. Transferability:

Transferability refers to the degree in which the research can be transferred to other contexts; this section is defined by readers of the research. The reader notes the specific details of the research situation and methods, and compares them to a similar situation that they are more familiar with. If the specifics are comparable, the original research would be deemed more credible. It is essential that the original researcher supplies a highly detailed description of their situation and methods.

1. Dependability:

Dependability ensures that the research findings are consistent and could be repeated. This is measured by the standard of which the research is conducted, analyzed and presented. Each process in the study should be reported in detail to enable an external researcher to repeat the inquiry and achieve similar results. This also enables researchers to understand the methods and their effectiveness.

1. Conformability

Conformability questions how the research findings are supported by the data collected. This is a process to establish whether the researcher has been bias during the study; this is due to the assumption that qualitative research allows the research to bring a unique perspective to the study. An external researcher can judge whether this is the case by studying the data collected during the original inquiry. To enhance the conformability of the initial conclusion, and audit trail can be completed throughout the study to demonstrate how each decision was made.

1. SATURATION OF DATA

Saturation of data simply refers to the point in research where no new information is discovered in data analysis, this signals the researcher that data collection may cease. Saturation also means that the researcher can be assured that further data collection would yield similar results.

1. CONTENT ANALYSIS APPROACH

Content analysis is a research tool used to determine the presence of certain words, themes, or concepts within some given qualitative data (i.e. text). Using content analysis, researchers can quantify and analyze the presence, meanings and relationships of such certain words, themes, or concepts. Researchers can then make inferences about the messages within the texts, the writers, the audience, and even the culture and time of surrounding the text.

**Uses of Content Analysis**

1. Identify the intentions, focus or communication trends of an individual, group or institution
2. Describe attitudinal and behavioral responses to communications
3. Determine psychological or emotional state of persons or groups
4. Reveal international differences in communication content
5. Reveal patterns in communication content
6. INDEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

This is a research technique that involves conducting intensive individual interviews with a small number of respondents in order to explore their perspectives on a particular idea, program or situation. An in-depth interview guide is marking that serves to direct the way the interview should go, that is; it’s a cheat like sheet that contains a list of questions that should be covered during the course of the interview.

Example of an interview guide

RESEARCH QUESTION: What is the meaning and lived experience of from the perspective of young adult woman aged 13– 20 diagnosed with the vesico vaginal fistula?

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS GUIDE:

 Neutral initial question:

One option: Please help me better understand what fibromyalgia is

 What has living with vesico vaginal fistula been like for you?

o How diagnosed? Signs or symptoms? Response of family,

friends? Vision of future?

 What is a typical day like for you?

 What have you found to be helpful in dealing with vesico vaginal fistula?

 What has been not-so-helpful or a challenge to you?

 What advise do you have for people living with the condition? Young women?

(If not addressed: What does vesico vaginal fistula MEAN to you?)

 What else would you like to share with me about living with vesico vaginal fistula?