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**Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements**

**Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:**

1. Ethical Considerations in Qualitative Research: When conducting qualitative research, what ethical principles should researchers adhere to protect the rights and well-being of human subjects? Discuss specific strategies for obtaining informed consent, ensuring voluntary participation, and maintaining confidentiality throughout the study.

2. Sampling Techniques in Qualitative Research: Explore different sampling techniques (convenience, purposive, snowball) used in qualitative research. How do researchers determine the most appropriate method for their study? Discuss the advantages and limitations of each approach and their implications for data collection and analysis.

3. Data Collection and Analysis with Software: Utilizing qualitative data analysis software, how can researchers efficiently manage and code large volumes of qualitative data? Discuss the advantages of using software for inductive data coding and how it facilitates the identification of emerging themes within the dataset.

4. Start the assignment on a new page after the Instructions Page. Follow all APA 7th edition guidelines for documentation and style.

5. Works Cited: Include a separate Works Cited page, formatted according to APA style, 7th edition (not included in page count).

6. Submit all assignments in DIAL.

1. Ethical Considerations in Qualitative Research: When conducting qualitative research, what ethical principles should researchers adhere to protect the rights and well-being of human subjects? Discuss specific strategies for obtaining informed consent, ensuring voluntary participation, and maintaining confidentiality throughout the study.

The ethical principles that researchers should adhere to, which are particularly relevant to the ethics of research involving human subjects, include respect for persons, beneficence, and justice. These ethical principles include informed consent, confidentiality, and respect for participants’ autonomy. Additionally, ensuring voluntary participation, minimizing harm, and obtaining approval from ethical review boards are essential to protect the rights and well-being of human subjects. Also, providing open communication, debriefing, and the right to withdraw from the study are crucial aspects of ethical qualitative research (Protections (OHRP), 2018). Scientists and researchers must always adhere to a particular code of conduct when collecting data from others. Strategies for obtaining informed consent, ensuring voluntary participation, and maintaining confidentiality throughout the study include clear explanations, written consent forms, verbal consent, continuous communication, a right to withdraw, privacy measures, secure data storage, limited access, anonymity, and debriefing (Protections (OHRP), 2018).

1. Sampling Techniques in Qualitative Research: Explore different sampling techniques (convenience, purposive, snowball) used in qualitative research. How do researchers determine the most appropriate method for their study? Discuss the advantages and limitations of each approach and their implications for data collection and analysis.

Sampling is a crucial aspect of qualitative research. Each one is unique and chosen based on the researcher's needs at the time. Sampling determines the representativeness and credibility of the collected data (SooleenAbbas, 2023). Researchers often use several sampling techniques in qualitative research: convenience, purposive, and snowball. Each of these techniques has advantages and disadvantages to them. The first method, called Snowball sampling, is also called referral sampling. It is used with initial participants who meet the eligibility criteria and asks them to refer others they know who also fit the requirements. Then, the sample size grows as referrals are added (SooleenAbbas, 2023). Snowball sampling can produce in-depth and detailed data from participants with common characteristics or experiences. Because referrals are made within a network of individuals who share similarities, researchers can gain deep insights into a specific group’s attitudes, behaviors, and perspectives (SooleenAbbas, 2023).

The second method is called Convenience sampling, which is as it sounds. Researchers use this method when time and resources are limited. It is a non-probability sampling technique whereby participants are selected based on their accessibility and willingness to participate rather than their suitability for the research question. Qualitative research uses Convenience sampling to generate various perspectives and experiences. For example, it was used during the pandemic because of the urgency of the situation, and time and resources were limited (SooleenAbbas, 2023). Convenience sampling has the advantage of being efficient; however, researchers need to acknowledge its limitations. One of the primary drawbacks of convenience sampling is that it is susceptible to selection bias (SooleenAbbas, 2023).

A third method commonly used in qualitative research is Purposive or judgmental sampling, a non-probability sampling technique. In purposive sampling, researchers intentionally select participants with specific characteristics or unique experiences related to the research question. The goal is to identify and recruit participants who can provide rich and diverse data to enhance the research findings. In addition, Purposive sampling is used when researchers seek to identify individuals or groups with particular knowledge, skills, or experiences relevant to the research question (SooleenAbbas, 2023). However, researchers should also be aware of potential bias when using purposive sampling. The researcher’s judgment may influence the selection of participants, resulting in a biased sample that does not accurately represent the broader population. Another disadvantage is that purposive sampling may not be representative of the more general population, which limits the generalizability of the findings (SooleenAbbas, 2023).

1. Data Collection and Analysis with Software: Utilizing quantitative data analysis software, how can researchers efficiently manage and code large volumes of qualitative data? Discuss the advantages of using software for inductive data coding and how it facilitates the identification of emerging themes within the dataset.

Maintaining data integrity throughout the process is crucial to ensure research findings' accuracy, reliability, and validity. Software programs like PSPP mimic SPSS very closely and play a pivotal role in streamlining data analysis, allowing for real-time processing and facilitating complex computations, thus improving efficiency and accuracy (Salkind & Frey, 2019, pp. 321-431; 450). They also provide features like text search, coding matrices, and visualization tools, making identifying patterns and relationships within the data easier, like ad-hoc testing. In addition, the researcher no longer has to calculate the formulas themselves. Utilizing features such as coding structures, thematic analysis, and text search functions enhances the overall efficiency of the qualitative data analysis process.

WORKS CITED

Protections (OHRP), O. for H. R. (2018, January 15). *Read the Belmont Report* [Text]. https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/belmont-report/read-the-belmont-report/index.html

Salkind, N. J., & Frey, B. B. (2019). *Statistics for people who (think they) hate statistics* (7th edition). SAGE Publications, Inc.

SooleenAbbas. (2023, June 5). Different Types of Sampling Techniques in Qualitative Research. *Sago*. https://sago.com/en/resources/blog/different-types-of-sampling-techniques-in-qualitative-research/