Research Design Methodology III

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Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

Answer the following questions in short answer format and be prepared to discuss them with your classmates in the virtual residency or the discussion forum.

1.Why are research ethics important for protecting human participants (subjects) in social science research? What are some potential risks associated with collecting data from human participants?

2.What is the difference between a target population and a sample? How does sample size relate to parametric (generalizable to the target population) and nonparametric (applicable only to the sample) statistical procedures?

3.Describe the following approaches to recruiting participants and designing sampling procedures: convenience, purposive, and snowball. Why are inclusion and exclusion criteria important when recruiting participants?

1.Why are research ethics important for protecting human participants (subjects) in social science research? What are some potential risks associated with collecting data from human participants?

All scientific research needs to abide by ethical principles; this is especially the case with social research, where the research subjects are human beings (Drolet et al., 2023) who have an intrinsic value and are susceptible to physical, mental, and emotional harm. Therefore, the social researcher must take steps to ensure ethical consideration and treatment of human participants. The collection of data from human participants needs to be unidentifiable to keep amenity, such as in the dataset, the participants are not named but assigned a case identifier. Institutional Review Boards (IRB) are used to ensure that the research is conducted ethically.

2.What is the difference between a target population and a sample? How does sample size relate to parametric (generalizable to the target population) and nonparametric (applicable only to the sample) statistical procedures?

The target population is the larger population group that the researcher is interested in knowing about, such as the U.S. population or U.S. college students. Then, the sample is a subset of that population selected at random, to which the research analyzes the data on, and if the data meets certain assumption tests, that sample data finding can then be inferred in the large target population. One of these assumptions is that the sample size needs to be large enough to represent the population. Parametric statistical procedures are used when the sample size is large, and the data meets the assumption test to be inferred into the larger target population. Nonparametric procedures are used when the sample size is not large enough and the data does not meet the assumption tests, which means that your findings cannot be generalized to the larger population but only the sample. (Gerald & Patson, 2021)

3.Describe the following approaches to recruiting participants and designing sampling procedures: convenience, purposive, and snowball. Why are inclusion and exclusion criteria important when recruiting participants?

Sampling is a selection process to yield participants in a research study. There are several different sampling techniques, some of which are probability sampling (simple, systematic, and stratified) and others non-probability (non-random) sampling (convenience, purposive, snowball) (Stratton, 2021). The non-probability sampling may be sufficient for the study and allows the researcher to ensure participants meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria that would yield a sample that provides the factors the researcher is interested in examining, such as church leadership roles.

WORKS CITED

Drolet, M. J., Rose-Derouin, E., Leblanc, J. C., Ruest, M., & Williams-Jones, B. (2023). Ethical issues in research: Perceptions of researchers, research ethics board members and research ethics experts. *Journal of Academic Ethics*, 21(2), 269-292.

Gerald, B., & Patson, T. F. (2021). Parametric and nonparametric tests: A brief review. *Int J Stat Distrib Appl*, *7*(3), 78-82.

Stratton, S. J. (2021). Population research: convenience sampling strategies. *Prehospital and disaster Medicine*, *36*(4), 373-374.