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ASSIGNMENT II

Part Three
Research methodology

TITLE

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RESEARCH PROJECT MODULE
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Methodology

Introduction

We live in a world that a constantly changing and facing new problems. Ion order for us to deal with these problems effectively and efficiently we need to successfully identify these problems in order to come up with concise and comprehensive solutions. Same problems may be age old but require new innovative solutions, this is where research becomes a vital and effective tool. Research is used when people seek to know more, to gain better understanding or simply to add onto existing theories. Research is a process. People conduct research when they seek to know more, to gain better understanding, to prove certain theories as well as to add onto what we already know. Research is therefore imperative, it is a need as we need information, facts and insights to help better ourselves and society at large (kothari2004). This study will be using a qualitative research approach to help gain better insight and understanding on the efficiency of health care services offered by public sector hospitals.

Research paradigm and desi

A research design, according to (Walliman 2018), is a structure that provides insights on how to execute research when using certain methodologies. A researcher needs to have knowledge on the various types of research designs in order to select the most relevant design. For this particular study a qualitative style of research will be adopted and will be implemented in the form of interviews with individuals. An interview is a conversation held by two or more people in an attempt to gather information on a certain topic. The interviewer in the person who asks the questions and the interviewee in the person being elicited for answers. Interviews may take on many forms whether it is face to face, over the phone via the internet or other emerging methods of interviews (Easwaramoorthy 2006), which as of lately we have been readily exposed to zoom. The method in which the study will conduct the interviews is through the use of a general interview with a guided approach where the participant will be allowed to answer the freely and openly while being guided by questions presented by the interviewer.

Population and sample

Population

According to (Rafeedali 2010), a population is a group of individuals who possess similar or common characteristics. A population is not limited to humans only, it can be animals as well as institutions. In order for research to be conducted, a clear definition of the desired population is required. In this study the population will only be nurses, doctors and admin staff who work in public health care facilities across Gauteng. A total of six health care professionals have been selected to take part in this interview.

Sample

A sample is a representative of a population. A population is too large for a researcher to approach and collect data from, therefore, a smaller group is need. A sample is a representative of a population. A sample is studied in order to gain better understanding of the population as a whole. For this study the sample will be health care professionals who are involved in day to day proceedings and procedures at public health institutions in Gauteng

Sampling method

Sampling methods refer to the way in which a researcher selects individuals from a population in order to be studied. In the field of research, there are two sampling methods, probability and non-probability sampling.

Probability sampling: Probability sampling is a way of sampling that utilizes a random selection (Howard 2018) . In other words, it gives all individuals an opportunity of being selected to be part of the study, making results appear more accurate as it reflects the population as a whole. Results generated from probability sampling are normally generalized.

Non- probability sampling: non-probability sampling is the direct opposite of probability sampling. People are not selected at random. This method is used when a researcher seeks to generate ideas or hear the opinions of others for a deeper and more insightful understanding. This method is said to be less cost effective and the most convenient (Howard 2018).

For this study purposive sampling will be used which falls under the non-probability sampling the reason for this method being the questions presented in the interview are rather specialized and very content specific to the role of health care professionals and thus need the expertise and knowledge of health care professionals.

Sampling procedure

Sampling procedure is a list of characteristics or features used to select participants who will be a part of the study to help answer this study's research question. A sample criteria may include characteristics such as demographics, geographical or clinical characteristics (Saunders et al, 2012).

For the purpose of this study two doctors who work in both the private and public sector will be interviewed to help give us a broad spectrum and difference between the two sectors. Two nurses will be interviewed to help give us a perspective as to whether working conditions are fair in public hospitals. Finally, two administrative workers particularly from the procurement departments will be interviewed.

Data collection

Research instruments may be briefly explained as the process of collecting data or information from participants in order to prove or better understand the issue or problem at hand. For this study a qualitative approach was taken in the method of guided interviews. Guided interviews were selected as they provide the opportunity to not only engage with participants but to also pay attention to their body language and expressions. Guided interviews allow for more information as well as provides for clarifications the researcher may need (Lindlf and Taylor 2002). For this study the researcher has identified a total of six health care professionals have been identified and will be picked based on their respective categories and contributions within the selected hospitals.

Procedure

We live in an era whereby technology is ever advancing and access to people and places has become ever so easy, the interviews will be held electronically. Due to the recent outbreak of corona virus this makes it both convenient and safe for the interviewer and interviewee to conduct the interview at a time that best suits the interviewee. Based on the nature of work the interviewees are involved in this makes the interview a lot safer for both parties. A consent form will be read out to the interviewee which they may either verbally agree or disagree to take part in the interview. Once they have agreed to take part in the survey a series of questions will be presented to them one at a time and the responses will then be recorded.

Data quality check

After research findings have been properly analysed they need to be deemed or classified as trustworthy (Boudah 2010). Trustworthiness in qualitative research consists of four key components.

a) Credibility- refers to what degree are your findings true. Is the researcher confident in his or her findings and how credible are they? In order to ensure

b) Transferability- this refers to how applicable are the findings to other situations or contexts?

c) Confirmability- refers the level of lack of bias in the study's findings. This implies the findings are based on the participant's responses and not the researcher.

d) Dependability- refers to what degree can the study be rehashed by other researchers and thee findings would be consist. Meaning, if another person were to replicate the exact study, would this person obtain similar finding? To ensure dependability, one needs to find a person to review the research process, examine it to ensure that the findings are true and most certainly dependable

Data analysis and interpretation

Data analysis refers to the way in which a researcher dissects data or information received from participants. In the field of research, there exists more than one data analysis method (Maguire 2017). This study is going to use a thematic data analysis. A thematic data analysis seeks to identify occurring/reoccurring themes or patterns in the data received that are deemed important. A thematic analysis involves six key steps.

Step one: Be familiar with data- this step requires the researcher to familiarize him or herself with data received from participants. This step includes reading transcripts or notes. This step is necessary as it allows for the researcher to immerse themselves in the study.

- Step two: Develop codes- this requires the research to sort out data received from participants in a more orderly and systematic manner. This step is necessary as it allows data to be reduced into smaller more manageable parts.
- Step three: Search for occurring themes - a theme is a pattern that carries significance about the research question. In this step, the researcher needs to search for occurring themes within the data received.
- Step four: Review your themes- this step involves modifying and generating preliminary themes which were identified in the previous step. This step requires researcher to ask questions such as: are the themes making sense? Does the data I currently have support the themes identified?
- Step five: clearly define your themes- once the researcher has reviewed and evaluated the themes in the previous step, he or she must clearly define the themes. This step is necessary as it helps give direction.

- Step six: Write a research report- after data has been analysed and categorized accordingly, the researcher must write a final report on how this study has answered or explored the research problem/question (Braun & Clarke 2006) .

For this research study, a thematic analysis was applied based on Braun & Clarkes (2006) six steps to help identify occurring themes and patterns. The six steps were applied throughout the process of data analysing and coding of a total of 3 transcript documents where codes were developed and then further grouped into themes which helped answer the research question

Descriptive analysis

A descriptive analysis is used to describe the basic features gathered from data in a study. It provides a basic summary of the data and measures taken to collect that data. Paired with a graphical representation of the findings, they form the basic virtual of any qualitative analysis of data. With this form of analysis one simply describes what the data presents to them. Description of data is needed to in order to find the common recurrences in the data. This is a crucial step as the techniques which need to be applied for inferential analysis of data depend on the characteristics of the data (Best & Kahn, 2003).

univariate analysis

univariate data is the simplest form of data analysis one can use when conducting a study. This form of analysis looks at only one variable in your data. It does not look at causes or relationships. Its sole purpose is to describe, its takes the data summarises it and looks for patterns within the data (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007).

Bivariate analysis

Bivariate data is the analysis of data whereby two variables are observed and is often used to find out a relationship between two sets of values (Vogt 2005).

Multivariate analysis

Multivariate analysis is based in observation and analysis of more than one statistical outcome variable at a time. In design and analysis, the technique is used to perform trade studies across multiple dimensions while considering the effects of all variables on the responses of interest (Pascual 2003)

Coefficient correlation

The correlation coefficient is a statistical measure of the strength of the relationship between the relative movements of two variables. The values range between -1 and 1. A calculated number greater than 1 or less than -1 means that there was an error in the correlation measurement. A correlation of -1 shows a perfect negative correlation, while a correlation of

1 shows a perfect positive correlation. A correlation of 0 shows no linear relationship between the movement of the two variables (Gant 2020).

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Exploratory factor analysis

In multivariate statistics, exploratory factor analysis is a statistical method used to uncover the underlying structure of a relatively large set of variables. Exploratory factor analysis is a technique within factor analysis whose overarching goal is to identify the underlying relationships between measured variables (Rahn 2009).

Validity and reliability

With the use of interviews the validity of these responses can not be fully valid as the sample group is very small and we don't get the full range of responses and views of others within the same industry and field and for this reason we cannot say that the results gathered from the interviews would be completely valid. The reliability of the interviews will be extremely reliable as the use of interviews will allow for the selection of people knowledgeable and experienced in the field. This will allow for the interviewer to get an in depth view of the topic at hand

Summary of chapter 3

Chapter three comprises of data collection methods that will be used to gather the relevant information from participants. The preferred method in this case will be guided interviews which will provide an in-depth view on the perspectives of individuals. The use of qualitative data will mean the use of a thematic analysis to transcribe and process the data.

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