AN INTRODUCTION TO QUALITATIVE METHODS

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• KNOW A BIT ABOUT THE HISTORY OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN ACADEMIA

• BE FAMILIAR WITH THE MEANING OF THE TERM “NATURALISTIC INQUIRY”

• DETERMINE MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE APPROACHES TO RESEARCH.
QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN ACADEMIA

• FROM ANTHROPOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY
• RESISTANCE TO QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
• CHALLENGES TO QUALITATIVE RESEARCHERS
• BENEFITS OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
NATURALISTIC INQUIRY

• NATURALISTIC INQUIRY
• QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IS COMPLEX, DYNAMIC, AND INTERDISCIPLINARY
• USE MULTIPLE DATA GENERATION METHODS
QUALITATIVE RESEARCH & METHODOLOGICAL PARADIGMS

• NECESSARY PARADIGM SHIFT
• PHILOSOPHY OF RESEARCH
• METHODOLOGICAL PARADIGM = ONTOLOGY + EPISTEMOLOGY + METHODOLOGY
  • ONTOLOGY – NATURE OF REALITY
  • EPISTEMOLOGY – VALID KNOWLEDGE
  • METHODOLOGY – GATHER KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE WORLD
• QUALITATIVE RESEARCH WORKS UNDER INTERPRETIVE FRAMEWORKS
  • POSITIVIST & POSTPOSITIVIST
  • CONSTRUCTIVIST-INTERPRETIVE
  • CRITICAL
  • FEMINIST-POSTSTRUCTURAL
QUALITATIVE VS. QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH:

1. USES OF POSITIVISM AND POST POSITIVISM
2. ACCEPTANCE OF POSTMODERN SENSIBILITIES
3. CAPTURING THE INDIVIDUAL’S POINT OF VIEW
4. EXAMINING THE CONSTRAINTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE
5. SECURING RICH DESCRIPTIONS
METHODOLOGIES & METHODS

• WIDE VARIETY OF METHODOLOGIES, BUT SOME MORE COMMON THAN OTHERS:
  • BASIC/DESCRIPTIVE RESEARCH
  • NARRATIVE RESEARCH
  • CASE STUDY RESEARCH
  • ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
  • GROUNDED THEORY RESEARCH

• SPECIFIC METHODS USED WITHIN EACH METHODOLOGY, 3 OF THE MOST COMMON FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ARE:
  1. INTERVIEWS
  2. OBSERVATIONS
  3. DOCUMENTS & ARTIFACTS
INTERESTED IN QUALITATIVE RESEARCH?

• REMEMBER THE PARADIGM SHIFT
• MAJOR TERMINOLOGY OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
• DESIGNING QUALITATIVE STUDIES – DATA GENERATION VS COLLECTION
REFERENCES


