

Investigate Different Research Designs

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Introduction

According to Wikipedia, research design is a set of methods and procedures used in collecting and analyzing measures of the variables specified in the problem research. The design of a study defines the study type. There are three basic categories of research design. This paper will focus on quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.

Quantitative and Qualitative Research Design

Quantitative research can be defined as sampling technique that is systematic, objective and formal in which the findings are articulated numerically and are also open to being manipulated mathematically hence making it possible for the researcher to approximate future quantities or events (Newman, 2011). On the other hand, qualitative research method is primarily exploratory. Qualitative research is applied with the aim of obtaining an understanding the underlying motivations opinions and reasons (Newman, 2011). It provides imminent to the issue and assists in the development of ideas for probable quantitative research. This research is also used to show trend in opinions and thoughts on a problem. Qualitative research and quantitative research methods have differences that can be summarized in different points. In quantitative research methods, the concepts are expressed in form of variables while in qualitative research methods the concepts are expressed in generalizations and motives. Secondly, in quantitative research measures are generally universal such as formulas for getting the mode, median and mean of a data and in qualitative research measures are developed individually. Thirdly, in quantitative research data is usually in the form of numbers and measurements while in qualitative research data is usually in the form of images, words or transcripts (Newman, 2011).

Mixed method research

Mixed method research is a research method that involves application of both quantitative and qualitative research methods. It is a process of collecting and mixing both qualitative and quantitative data in one study. The major strength of the mixed method is that using both types of data results into a better understanding of the research problem and hence better results (Anastas, 2012).

The design method that I relate to most is mixed method. I can relate to this method because quantitative and qualitative research work hand in hand. The Mixed Method of research is used often at my school. There are monthly data meetings which require teachers to obtain quantitative data (student data). We use this data to guide instruction and to modify teaching. This quantitative data research is used to evaluate qualitative research on teaching strategies and methods. Depending on what the quantitative and qualitative research yields, instruction changes. Teachers must use the research to come up with ways to reteach unmastered standards to students.

Conclusion

Research is a way of learning that involves gathering information and gaining new ideas and facts. There are two methods of research which include qualitative and quantitative (Anastas, 2012). Quantitative involves numbers while qualitative involves generalizations and motives. Both methods are appropriate for carrying out research and can be chosen depending on the subject and the outcome required on the research problem.

References

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