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by B J

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The Difference between Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis

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The Difference between Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis

The two critical methodologies of analyzing data in criminal justice are qualitative and quantitative data analysis. Because they do have the same goals, the techniques are used individually or simultaneously to assess the effectiveness of intervention programs (Mertens & Wilson, 2019). They both have flaws, so using them simultaneously can accommodate for the flaws in each and produce high-quality results.

Quantitative data analysis is frequently linked to numerical methods, in which information is collected, categorized, and then calculated for criminal justice studies using a range of numerical approaches. Data is drawn at random from sample sizes and then reviewed. The benefit of quantitative analysis is that the findings can be applied to a larger population by utilizing the research method in the experiment. The limited generalization of the results is a limitation of qualitative data analysis. Quantitative analysis is primarily associated with amounts like depth, percentage, and length, among others. The data can be conveyed in tabulated form or through any numerical example like charts and graphs.

The data analysis that is not quantifiable is the crucial element of qualitative analysis. This type of data analysis is concerned with comprehending and deriving meaning into the features and characteristics of items (participants) in criminal justice program evaluations (Vito & Higgins, 2015). Qualitative data analysis can provide more in-depth knowledge of "why" a specific criminal activity happens. The evaluation can be used in tandem with or before quantitative analysis. Unlike quantitative data analysis, which is constrained by specific association rules or metrics, qualitative data analysis can be broad and multidimensional. It is also explorative, debatable, succinct, non-statistical, and contextual. In general, the quantitative

analysis looks explicitly at the actual evidence or accurate figures. Qualitative analysis is ephemeral, subjective features and thoughts, things that cannot be quantified.

References

Mertens, D. M., & Wilson, A. T. (2019). *Program evaluation theory and practice: A comprehensive guide*. Guilford Press.

Vito, G. F., & Higgins, G. E. (2015). *Practical program evaluation for criminal justice*. Anderson Publishing.

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