

Qualitative Research

THE READER'S COMPANION WORKSHEET

Article Title: _____

Author(s): _____

TITLE

Topic of interest Yes No Maybe

Method of interest Yes No Maybe

Population of interest Yes No Maybe

ABSTRACT

Results useful Yes No Maybe

INTRODUCTION

Why is the study being done (i.e., the problem, concern, issue)?

What is the purpose of the study or the question(s) that the investigator is trying to answer (e.g., literature review)?

What are the central concepts (e.g., pain, grief, nursing work)?

Are most of the references recent (less than 5 years old)? Yes No

If no, is this a classic/groundbreaking reference or one that has re-emerged in importance (i.e., research relating to tuberculosis)?

Are experts cited? Yes No Not sure



METHODS

Design

What is the research design (e.g., case study, grounded theory, phenomenology, historical research)?

Is the research design appropriate to answer the research question?

Yes No Not sure

Sample

What are the characteristics of the participants who were included and excluded from the study (e.g., health status, age, education, gender, ethnicity, occupation, socio-economic status)?

Included:

Excluded:

Does the selection of the participants fit with the concept being studied?

Yes No Not sure

Where were the participants recruited (e.g., self-help group, clinical unit)?

What were the procedures for choosing participants (e.g., purposively selected, snowball technique)?



Human Rights Protection

Was informed consent obtained? Yes No

Was the participant reasonably able to take part? Yes No

Was the study potentially/actually harmful to participants/others? Yes No

List any ethical principles ignored (e.g., truthfulness, confidentiality).

Setting

What was the setting in which the data were collected?

Busy unit Home setting Private room Other

Data Collection

What strategy or strategies were used for the data collection?

Focus group Structured interview Unstructured interview

Observation Other

Did the researcher explain his or her role in the data collection process?

Yes No Not stated

How were the data recorded (e.g., field notes, tape-recorded, videotaped)?

Was data saturation reached? Yes No Not stated Not applicable

Data Analysis

What methods of data analysis were used (i.e., how were the categories/themes derived, constant comparison)?



Were the data analyzed inductively? Yes No Not stated

Were strategies used to ensure rigour/trustworthiness?

Yes No Not stated

If yes, what were they (e.g., review by others, exemplars provided, audit trail)?

Did the researcher critically examine his or her own role, assumptions, and preconceptions?

Yes No Not sure

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

What are the main findings of the study (i.e., major categories/themes that emerged)?

What information is presented in figures or tables? Are they easy to understand or confusing?

Do you agree with the investigator's interpretation of the results? Yes No
If not, why not?

Are the results consistent with past research? Yes No Not applicable
If not, why not?



Does the interpretation make sense theoretically?

Yes No Not applicable

If not, why not?

Does the interpretation offer any ideas that you can use?

Yes No Not applicable

If not, why not?

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

Overall, is the article important or significant for the practice of health care?

Yes No

Do the findings resonate (seem correct and familiar) with you and your practice?

Yes No

If yes, why?

Major limitations of the study (2 or 3):

Major strengths of the study (2 or 3):

Are the results transferable? Yes No Not sure

USING RESEARCH RESULTS

Are the participants similar to those in your setting?

Yes No Somewhat



Once you feel somewhat comfortable with the information in the study, ask yourself these questions:

Will information from the study help with the following?

Understanding clients' perspectives: Yes No Maybe Not applicable

Assessment: Yes No Maybe Not applicable

Procedure/protocol: Yes No Maybe Not applicable

Interventions: Yes No Maybe Not applicable

Interpersonal relationships: Yes No Maybe Not applicable

Quality improvement programs: Yes No Maybe Not applicable

Work life/environment: Yes No Maybe Not applicable

Education programs: Yes No Maybe Not applicable

Other:

Are the findings consistent with policies, procedures, and standards?

Require new policy: Yes No Not sure

Require new procedure: Yes No Not sure

Require new standard: Yes No Not sure

Can safety be maintained? Yes No Not sure

Do you think the findings are acceptable to the following people?

Clients: Yes No Not sure

Administrators: Yes No Not sure

Colleagues: Yes No Not sure

Other professionals: Yes No Not sure

Are the following required for using the results?

Equipment: Yes No

Staff: Yes No

Time: Yes No

Money: Yes No

Knowledge/skills: Yes No

Attitude change: Yes No

Is the benefit worth the effort of obtaining the resources and changing practice?

Yes No

Why or why not?

