

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health

GUIDELINES FOR STUDIES USING QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY

Criteria	Considerations
Congruence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the chosen methodology fit the research issue? • Is the study conducted in a way that is congruent with the stated methodology?
Responsiveness to social context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the research design developed and adapted to respond to real-life situations within the social settings in which it was conducted? • Did the researcher's engage with participants and become familiar with the study context?
Appropriateness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were the sampling strategies suitable to identify participants and sources to inform the research question being addressed?
Adequacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have sufficient sources of information been sampled to develop a full description of the issue being studied? • Is there a detailed description of the people who participated, how they were sampled, their levels and types of participation? • Is there a detailed description of the data gathering and analytical processes followed? • To what extent did analysis inform subsequent data gathering and in a cyclical (iterative) manner during the research process? • Were multiple methods and/or sources of information weighed in the analysis? • Were methods of gathering and recording/documenting data sensitive to participants' language and views? • Is the description of the methods detailed enough to enable the reader to understand the context of what is being studies?
Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have the processes of data gathering and analysis been rendered transparent? • How were rival/competing accounts dealt within the analysis?
Authenticity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are participants' views presented in their own voices, that is, are verbatim quotes presented? • Are a range of voices and views (including dissenting views) represented?
Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the findings fit the data from which they are derived; are the linkages between data and findings plausible? • Have the perspectives of multiple researchers been taken into account?
Reciprocity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent were processes of conducting/reviewing the analysis/negotiating the interpretation shared with participants?
Typicality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What claims are made for generalizability of the findings to other bodies of knowledge, populations, or contexts/settings?
Permeability of the researcher's intentions, engagement, interpretations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the researcher's role transparent in the interpretive process? • Are the researcher's intentions, preconceptions, values, or preferred theories revealed in the report?

Adapted from: Fossey, E., Harvey, C., McDermott, F., & Davidson, F. (2002). Understanding and evaluating qualitative research. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 36, 727-732.