

# Methods section – Dr. Meshkah bani Mustafa

## meeting notes (5)

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### Study Design

Qualitative study design, based on the nature of the research problem.

- Culture and behavior: ethnography
- Philosophy and roots of experiences, perceptions, and opinions: phenomenology
- Development of certain theory in a population: grounded theory

For us: we will look for philosophy = qualitative phenomenology approach.

You have to mention why did you use this type; I'm seeking to explore the depth of perception and gain knowledge about this phenomena.

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### Study Setting

Place and time: where did you do the interviews, on campus in JU, online, and timing.  
For example, took place from 2nd of April to 11th April, etc.

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### Sampling Technique

Purposeful sampling; choosing medical students upon purpose to gain knowledge about their learning environment, those who are the most informative for me and their statements are the most useful.

- Criterion for sampling: males/females, has a certain disease, etc.
  - Also snowball: a little number then increases in size from the participants I ask them to refer for other participants and ask for others.
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### Sample Size

Number of participants, it's very few, around 12–26, determined based on **data saturation** where you have enough information about your research question and any further data collection

is a waste.

The investigator should know the themes and patterns so he can transcribe and see if we need more info or not. New themes and patterns: continue; otherwise stop.

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## **Study Population**

- Inclusion: medical students at JU
  - Exclusion: the opposite and the ones who don't provide consent (fair dealing should be explained)
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## **Reflexivity**

Mention your role in the paper where you targeted the findings and chose themes I got interested in, reflecting my interest. You should acknowledge your role.

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## **Data Collection Procedure**

- I reviewed literature then chose themes building the interview guide consisting of those questions and probes
  - Then contacted the students at this specific date and time and scheduled the meeting via messages or email and sent consent form and participant information sheet gaining consent for recording and sheet including who we are and purpose of study and the benefits of the study and voluntary participation.
  - On the day of interview, I welcomed the participants and recorded the interview then we transcribed into text (you can mention what field notes were taken) and be detailed as possible
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## **Data Collection Tool**

- Semi-structured in-depth interviews, where it's flexible, not literal questions, some questions added during the talk online or face-to-face interview
- Three sections: 3 central questions, 12 follow-up, and then probes (mention sequence of the interview and assure confidentiality)
- Only investigators will look on answers
- Where we can get interventions to enhance the environment

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## Validity and Reliability = Trustworthiness and Rigor / Credibility

### Strategies:

- **Prolonged engagement:** Based on themes reviewing and well knowledge about the patterns I'm looking for and these main questions were followed by sub and probe questions, and in the interview we looked for the topics where we can get full answers without interrupting the participants
- **Persistent observation:** Through reading and rereading of the data and then in the margins of the transcription I wrote notes and labeled the themes and initial themes which align in meaning were combined in a final theme
- **Triangulation:**
  - Investigator triangulation: from 3 angles to get full view of topic, 3 or multiple investigators involved in thematic analysis so many views are involved in forming codes/themes and we can get into agreement that those final themes are correct
  - Method triangulation: field notes were taken from body gestures and language during interviews
  - Data triangulation: multiple sources of data: raw data, highlighted data with labels and themes, codes to themes, final themes
- **Member check:** After reviewing the transcripts and labeling them to send them back to the participant and ask them if the codes are correct regarding his answers so I got to the right point

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## Data Analysis

**Thematic analysis:** following 6 steps

1. **Familiarization:** First read for the first, second, third time until you become familiar
  2. **Initial codes:** Highlight the answers and wherever you found same meaning give the same code. Then collect common codes and similarities to combine them into one theme (initial theme) several
  3. Then review these initial themes and exclude some if one or two participants provided this answer or maybe I can merge similar themes to get about 8–10 final themes which will form my results written in a narrative way in the results and you have to tell why you built this theme using quotes from text
- Sometimes it's called **inductive or deductive thematic analysis**
    - Inductive: induced upon content and got the theme (probably u will use this)
    - Deductive: I have preassumed themes and I'm looking for them in the text

Reference: [Video](#)

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## **Ethical Consideration**

- You gained the approval through written consent form and participant information sheet signed by participant and consent for recording
- Coded participants and de-identified them
- Confidentiality and privacy (no IRB)
- Phrase: don't change info and correct grammar

**Written by: Mas Nafoukh (special thanks to ChatGPT)**