

Level 1. Background Concept

The broad constellation of meanings and understandings associated with a given concept.

Task: Conceptualization

Formulating a systematized concept through reasoning about the background concept, in light of the goals of research.

Task: Revisiting Background

Concept. Exploring broader issues concerning the background concept in light of insights about scores, indicators, and the systematized concept.

Level 2. Systematized Concept

A specific formulation of a concept used by a given scholar or group of scholars; commonly involves an explicit definition.



Task: Operationalization

Developing, on the basis of a systematized concept, one or more indicators for scoring/classifying cases.

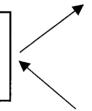
Task: Modifying Systematized

Concept. Fine-tuning the systematized concept, or possibly extensively revising it, in light of insights about scores and indicators.



Level 3. Indicators

Also referred to as "measures" and "operationalizations." In qualitative research, these are the operational definitions employed in classifying cases.



Task: Scoring Cases

Applying these indicators to produce scores for the cases being analyzed.

Task: Refining Indicators

Modifying indicators, or potentially creating new indicators, in light of observed scores.



Level 4. Scores for Cases

The scores for cases generated by a particular indicator. These include both numerical scores and the results of qualitative classification

Measurement