**Data Gathering**

Data collection or data gathering is the process of gathering and measuring information on targeted variables in an established system, which then enables one to answer relevant questions and evaluate outcomes.

**Methods to gather data**

1. **Interview**

The interview method in psychology is a data collection technique where a researcher engages in direct conversation with individuals to gather information about their thoughts, experiences, and behaviors. It involves asking structured or open-ended questions to elicit responses that can provide insights into various psychological phenomena. Interviews can be used in clinical assessments, research studies, and therapeutic settings, allowing for in-depth exploration of topics and the subjective experiences of individuals. This method helps researchers understand subjective perspectives, obtain qualitative data, and gain a deeper understanding of human behavior and psychological processes.The researcher will often record interviews, and the data will be written up as a transcript (a written account of interview questions and answers) which can be analyzed later.

* A structured interview: it is a quantitative research method where the interviewer a set of prepared closed-ended questions in the form of an interview schedule. Interviews schedules have a standardized format, meaning the same questions are asked to each interviewee in the same order. The interviewer will not deviate from the interview schedule (except to clarify the meaning of the question) or probe beyond the answers received.
* Unstructured interviews: it do not use any set questions, instead, the interviewer asks open-ended questions based on a specific research topic, and will try to let the interview flow like a natural conversation. The interviewer modifies his or her questions to suit the candidate’s specific experiences. Unstructured interviews are sometimes referred to as ‘discovery interviews’ and are more like a ‘guided conservation’ than a strictly structured interview. They are sometimes called informal interviews.
* Interviewer self-disclosure involves the interviewer revealing personal information or opinions during the research interview. This may increase rapport but risks changing dynamics away from a focus on facilitating the interviewee’s account.
* Focus group interview is a qualitative approach where a group of respondents are interviewed together, used to gain an information among the group.

1. **Psychometric Assessments**

Psychological tests are written, visual, or verbal evaluations administered to assess the cognitive and emotional functioning of children and adults. (APA)

* + Intelligence test: IQ tests purport to be measures of intelligence, IQ (or cognitive) Tests and achievement test are common norm-referenced tests. In these types of Tests, a series of tasks is presented to the person being evaluated, and the person’s Responses are graded according to carefully prescribed guidelines. After the test Is completed, the results can be compiled and compared to the responses of a Norm group, usually composed of people of the same age or grade level as the Person being evaluated.
  + Tests of Interest and Aptitude: Tests of Interest assesses the likes and dislikes Of the client whereas aptitude tests aim at measuring the potential of the client in A particular field. These are mainly used for the educational and vocational Counselling
  + Attitude tests: Attitude test assess an individual’s feelings about an event, person,Or object. Attitude scales are used in marketing to determine individual (and Group) preferences for brands, or items.
  + Neuro-psychological tests: These tests consist of specifically designed tasks Used to measure a psychological function known to be linked to a particular Brain structure or pathway. They are typically used to assess impairment after an Injury or illness known to affect neuro-cognitive functioning, or when used in Research, to contrast neuropsychological abilities across experimental groups.
  + Personality tests: Personality tests and inventories evaluate the thoughts, Emotions, attitudes, and behavioural traits that comprise personality. The results Of these tests can help determine a child’s personality strengths and weaknesses, And may identify certain disturbances in personality. Psychological measures of Personality consist of rating scale or self-report measures and free response Measures or projective tests.
  + Behavioral assessment: It is a systematic process of evaluating and measuring an individual’s behaviors, competencies, and traits to assess their suitability. It involves observing and analyzing how candidates respond to various situational scenarios to predict their actions.