Qualitative Research in Human Services

Name

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Course

Instructor

Date

**Literature Review**

Qualitative research has increasingly been embraced as an independent source of evidence that can be applied in enhancing evidence-based practice within human service professionals. According to Jack (2006), qualitative research provides epidemiological data obtained from quantitative research is not sufficient to facilitate proper making of informed decisions within the health care environment. The author clear emphasizes on the importance of information of the experiences of individuals on facilitating the health care process. Nevertheless, as much as the author provides an in-depth analysis of the benefits of qualitative research in informing health care processes, she fails to acknowledge the fact that qualitative data in the health sector is complimented by quantitative data in terms of trends and probability, and cannot stand on its own (Jack, 2006).

It is important to note that in as much as qualitative research has shown some value in informing the decision making process in the health sector, the quality of the researches may compromise their value. Shek, Tang, and Han (2005) conducted a study that involved a review of qualitative and evaluative studies between 1990 and 2003 in which they determined that the quality of the qualitative studies published within the social work field was low. This was due to lack of sensitivity of the studies to various issues including auditability, truth-value, bias, critical data interpretation, consistency and philosophy base (Shek, Tang, & Han, 2005). It is hence clear that qualitative researchers fail to put in much effort towards refining such studies to ensure that they are of high quality enough to be generalized to larger populations.

Proper identification of the right quality of qualitative data that can be applied in practice is an aspect of great importance. The credibility of research it determined by the quality of the data presented and its practicability in an actual situation. In this view, Meyrick (2006) argues that many users of qualitative research do not know how to determine the quality of such research. The author maintained that the major principles of research that users of qualitative research ought to consider when determining quality are systematicity and transparency (Meyrick, 2006). Nevertheless, the author fails to determine the measures and extend of transparency and systematicity that may be rank a research as of high or low quality.

References

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Shek, D., Tang, V., & Han, X. (2005). Evaluation of evaluation studies using qualitative research methods in the social work literature (1990-2003): evidence that constitutes a wake-up call. *Research on Social Work Practice, 15*(3), 180-194.