

Mixed Methods Research

THE READER'S COMPANION WORKSHEET

Please note: if the mixed methods research is presented in two articles, use Worksheets 1 and 2. This worksheet is for use when the mixed methods research is presented in one article.

Article Title:

Author(s):

TITLE

Topic of interest Yes No Maybe
Method of interest Yes No Maybe
Population of interest Yes No Maybe

ABSTRACT

Results useful? Yes No Maybe

INTRODUCTION

Why was the study done (i.e., problem, concern, issue)?

What is the purpose of the study or what questions is the investigator trying to answer?

What are the central ideas, concepts, or variables (e.g., pain, immobility, grief, nursing work)?

Are most of the references recent (less than 5 years old)? Yes No

If not, is this a classic/groundbreaking reference or one that has reemerged in importance (e.g., research relating to tuberculosis)?

Are experts cited? Yes No Not sure

METHODS

Design

What reason is given for using mixed methods?

Which mixed methods approach was selected (e.g., sequential exploratory, concurrent triangulation)?

Is the weighting of the qualitative and quantitative part made clear (i.e., which part was given priority, or were they equal)?

Was an overarching theory used (transformative approach)?

Yes No Not sure

Is the research design appropriate for answering the research question?

Yes No Not sure

Did the qualitative researcher critically examine his or her own role, assumptions, and preconceptions?

Yes No Not sure

At what point in the study did the integration of methods occur (e.g., data collection, data analysis)?

Sample

Are the sampling strategies for both the qualitative and quantitative phases of the study described?

Yes No Not sure

What are the characteristics of the participants who were included and excluded from the study (e.g., health status, age, education, gender, ethnicity, occupation, socioeconomic status)?

Included:

Qualitative

Quantitative

Excluded:

Qualitative

Quantitative

Does the selection of the participants fit with the concept being studied?

Qualitative Yes No Not sure

Quantitative Yes No Not sure

Where were the participants recruited (e.g., self-help group, clinical unit)?

What was the rationale for the sample size (e.g., data saturation, power calculation)?

Qualitative:

Quantitative:

What were the procedures for choosing participants (e.g., purposively selected, snowball technique, random sample, convenience)?

Qualitative:

Quantitative:

In the qualitative part, were strategies used to ensure rigour (e.g., reliability and validity, trustworthiness)?

Yes No Not stated

If yes, what were they (e.g., review by others, audit trail, member check, triangulation)?

Do you think the methods used to select quantitative participants for the study biased the results?

Selection bias Yes No

If yes, how?

In the quantitative portion, were there many refusals, withdrawals, dropouts, or deaths?

Participation bias Yes No

Research Ethics Concerns

Was informed consent obtained? Yes No

Were the participants reasonably able to take part? Yes No

Was the study potentially/actually harmful to participants/others? Yes No

List any ethical issues that are of concern to you as a reader and potential user of the research (e.g., truthfulness, confidentiality, coercion).

Setting

What was the setting in which the data were collected?

Busy unit Home setting Community Other

Quantitative Research Experiment (if applicable)

What was the special treatment or intervention?

Did the participants in the study know whether they received the intervention or a placebo?

Yes No

What methods, if any, were used to “blind” the participants, staff, and data collectors from knowledge about the study that might influence the results?

Was there any contamination or mixing of treatments across the study groups?

Were there any other factors related to the intervention/treatment that might have influenced the outcomes?

Performance bias Yes No

If yes, what were they?

Data Collection

What qualitative strategy or strategies were used for the data collection?

Focus group Structured interview Unstructured interview Observation

Other

Did the qualitative researcher explain his or her role in the data collection process?

Yes No Not stated

How were the data recorded (e.g., field notes, tape-recorded, videotaped)?

In the qualitative analysis, was data saturation reached?

Yes No Not stated Not applicable

What quantitative strategy or strategies were used for data collection?

Questionnaire Interview Chart review Procedure
Observation Other

Were methods used to ensure that quantitative data were reliably collected (e.g., differences between raters, differences between times of measurement)?

Yes No Not reported

If yes, what were they ?

Were methods used to ensure the validity of the quantitative data collected (e.g., expert review, comparison with other measures)?

Yes No Not reported

If yes, what were they?

Do you think that the measurement methods biased the results?

Measurement bias Yes No

If yes, how?

Data Analysis

What methods of data analysis were used? For qualitative analyses, how were the categories/themes derived (e.g., constant comparison)? For quantitative analyses, what statistical tests were used (e.g., *t*-tests, regression analysis)?

Qualitative:

Quantitative:

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sequential studies: How did the first phase of the mixed methods inform the second?

Concurrent studies: Did the weight given to each phase of the mixed methods fit the approach taken? Yes No Not sure

Transformative studies: Did the overarching perspective taken appear in all parts of the study?

Yes No Not sure

What are the main findings of the study (i.e., major categories/themes that emerged; statistical findings)?

Qualitative

Quantitative

Was the quantitative response rate satisfactory? Yes No Not sure

What information is presented in tables, figures, or graphs? Are these easy to understand or confusing?

Were any of the findings statistically significant? Yes No Not sure
If yes, what were they?

Were there clinically meaningful results/trends?

Yes No Not applicable Not sure

If yes, what were they?

DISCUSSION

Do you agree with the investigator's interpretation of the results? Yes No

If not, why not?

Are the results consistent with those of past research?

Yes No Not applicable

If not, why not?

Does the interpretation make sense theoretically?

Yes No Not applicable

If not, why not?

Does the interpretation offer any ideas that you can use?

Yes No Not applicable

If not, why not?

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

Overall, is the article important or significant for the practice of health care?

Yes No

Do the findings resonate (seem correct and familiar) with you and your practice?

Yes No

If yes, why?

Major limitations of the study (two or three):

Major strengths of the study (two or three):

Are the results transferable or generalizable? Yes No Not sure

