

Quality of life

8th seminar

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Objective x subjective

- What is relation between objective and subjective indicators of quality of life (according to you)?
- Which indicators are more important and more reflective a reality? Objective or subjective?

	Quantitative	Qualitative
General framework	Seek to confirm hypotheses about phenomena	Seek to explore phenomena
	Instruments use more rigid style of eliciting and categorizing responses to questions	Instruments use more flexible, iterative style of eliciting and categorizing responses to questions
	Use highly structured methods such as questionnaires, surveys, and structured observation	Use semi-structured methods such as in-depth interviews, focus groups, and participant observation
Analytical objectives	To quantify variation	To describe variation
	To predict causal relationships	To describe and explain relationships
	To describe characteristics of a population	To describe individual experiences
		To describe group norms
Question format	Closed-ended	Open-ended
Data format	Numerical (obtained by assigning numerical values to responses)	Textual (obtained from audiotapes, videotapes, and field notes)
Flexibility in study design	Study design is stable from beginning to end	Some aspects of the study are flexible (for example, the addition, exclusion, or wording of particular interview questions)
	Participant responses do not influence or determine how and which questions researchers ask next	Participant responses affect how and which questions researchers ask next
	Study design is subject to statistical assumptions and conditions	Study design is iterative, that is, data collection and research questions are adjusted according to what is learned

Combination of quantitative and qualitative approach

- Example: questionnaire
- Which aspects (domains) of quality of life are inquired?
- Which method is preferred? Why?
- What are the results of this research? For who? How could we interpret them?

Quantitative methodology

- Statistical analysis of objective dimension
 - Social indicators
 - Indicators of living conditions
- Statistical analysis of subjective dimension
 - Evaluation of satisfaction with domains QoL
- Using multivariate methods
 - Factor analysis
 - Principal component analysis

Qualitative methodology

- Questionnaires
- In-depth interviews
- Mental mapping
- Observation
- Ethnomethodology
- Alternative methods...

How to realize research?

- You have to frame:
 - Research problem (quality of life?)
 - Research topic (Quality of life in a region, in some communities, Domains of quality of life...)
 - Research question
- Then you have to define:
 - Goals
 - Focus groups + focus region
 - Evaluation, interpretation, for who it is intended
 - Capacities x constraints (time, collaborators, money...)
 - > METHODS

Task to next lessons

- Suggest and write methodical approach to measure subjective dimension of quality of life
- Follow the points (framing problem, question...) and finally suggest appropriate method
- Think about innovativeness, feasibility!