

WHEN IS QUALITATIVE METHOD APPROPRIATE?

- When we want to explore a situation/issue
- When we want to hear silenced voices
- When we want to get complex and detailed understanding of an issue
- When we want to identify variables that should be further investigated and measured
- When we cannot separate what participants can tell us about the issue from its context
- When we want to hear participants' stories (the subject of our studies are the participants themselves)

SHAPING AND FOCUSING THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

- A well-defined research problem gives a well-focused research topic
- Research problems to be studied may arise from:
 - Personal experience with an issue
 - A job-related problem
 - An adviser's research agenda
 - A scholarly literature

RESEARCH PURPOSE

- Framing a research question begins from clarifying the research purpose.
- Five major typologies of a qualitative research purpose:
 - 1) **Basic research**: To contribute to fundamental knowledge and theory
 - 2) **Applied research**: To illuminate a societal concern
 - 3) **Summative evaluation**: To determine a program effectiveness
 - 4) **Formative evaluation**: To improve a program
 - 5) **Action research**: To solve a specific problem.

Examples:

Type	Purpose	Example:
Basic Research	To contribute to fundamental knowledge and theory	“How does children’s conceptualization of nature develop?”
Applied Research	To illuminate a societal concern	“How can urban school children’s disconnect with the natural environment be bridged?”
Summative Evaluation	To determine program effectiveness	“Is the ‘go outside’ out-door EE program applied in BD primary schools effective in developing children’s feeling for nature?”
Formative Evaluation	To improve a program	“How can some students’ fear of reptiles be dealt with during the ‘go outside’ out-door EE program?”
Action Research	To solve a specific problem	“How can I integrate literacy and environmental education for low-achievers in my classroom?”

Research Problem, Research Purpose, and Research Question(s)

➤ PURPOSE IS WHAT GIVES MEANING TO THE QUESTION; and PROBLEM IS WHAT GIVES RISE TO PURPOSE.

1. What do you want to know? (is a question about your research question)
2. Why do you want to know about it? (is a question about your research purpose)
3. What problem did you observe that made you concerned/curious about it? (is a question about your research problem)

