ARTICLE REVIEW

By:

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Introduction

The article that is being analyzed herein is attributed to Williamson et al. (2012) and is titled, ‘*It should be the most natural thing in the world: exploring first-time mothers' breastfeeding difficulties in the UK using audio-­diaries and interviews*. The article strives to identify the nature of challenges faces by first-time mothers.’ In analyzing this article, the focus is on establishing its integrity, reliability, validity and overall quality.

Analysis

Literature

Given the approach employed in developing the literature review, it is evident that it has a strong relation to the adopted research question. The purpose of a literature review is to establish the presence of a gap in research. Therefore, quality literature reviews need to meet this criterion. Essentially, Williamson et al. (2012) focuses on establishing a gap in literature. Essentially, the authors establish that they endeavour to expound on previous research by establishing that its core focus is on using real-time data, given the use of the audio diaries. Aside from this, the study uses its review of literature to investigate the cultural connotations that may aggravate the difficulties associated with breastfeeding challenges. Given the adopted approach, it becomes evident that the approach employed in the development of the literature review is indeed effective because it has met the requisite conditions. The literature review’s clarity advances, which enables the reader to follow the foundational arguments featured in this section. However, the authors would have been much more effective by inculcating subheadings in the literature review. In this way, it would have been much easier to follow the arguments made. For example, the authors should have used subheadings to show the transition from introducing the topic, establishing its importance to affirming the presence of a gap in literature, which compels the need for the current research undertaking.

Research question

The adopted research question is not testable. Essentially, the adopted research question is of an explorative manner. Essentially, the authors do not endeavour to feature the pertinent dependent and independent variables. Essentially, the nature of the research question is in tandem with the phenomenological interpretive approach that has guided the entire research undertaking. By aligning the research question to the research methodology as well as its analysis. Essentially, the data collection is pegged on the tenets of the phenomenological interpretive approach given the use of the interviews as well as audio diaries. The same approach has also been employed in the analysis phase.

In approaching the analysis phase, the researchers focus on employing strategies that are most effective for qualitative data. Essentially, the data is grouped into different responses, which tends to augment the degree of input that can be sourced from the data. Therefore, by grouping the responses from the audio recordings and the interviews, it becomes possible to augment the potential range of input and understanding to be gained on the breastfeeding challenges faced by first-time mothers.

Research approach

A qualitative approach has been employed. Given the nature of the adopted research question, a qualitative approach offers the best potential of gaining an understanding of the phenomenon at hand. Qualitative research designs are effective at enabling researchers to investigate a phenomenon at hand. From this understanding, it becomes apparent that the use of a qualitative research design is indeed effective at providing an understanding of the breastfeeding challenges faced by the first-time mothers. However, it needs to be noted that it is not just sufficient to use a qualitative research design. Rather, there is a need to comprehend that the subsequent research philosophy has a bearing on the effectiveness of the adopted research design. The proceeding section offers an insight into this dynamic of the research under review.

Social research methods

The researchers’ decision to use longitudinal design was indeed effective given that understanding the challenges faced by mothers required the sampling units to be studied across a specific time. Therefore, the research approach that has been employed is indeed effective. The other potential social research methods entail the cross-sectional research approach. In the event that the researchers had used this approach, then they would have studied the respondents for a limited time. In essence, such an approach would have limited the degree of insight that could have been generated by the research undertaken. Therefore, collecting data from the respondents continually for six months, thus augments the potential of developing a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon at hand. It needs to be noted that the phenomenon at hand entailed developing a deep comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by first-time mothers

Participants

The participants used were indeed appropriate given the nature of the adopted research question. As has been reiterated herein, the core objective entailed developing an understanding of the plight faced by first-time mothers in the context of breastfeeding. Given the nature of the research question, it becomes evident that the participants used were indeed relevant and effective in enabling the researchers to answer the adopted research question. However, it needs to be noted that the authors have not provided full and clear information pertaining to the respondents. Essentially, the researchers have only provided their pseudonyms. Such a feature makes it difficult for the reader to verify the overall authenticity of the respondents. Therefore, it would have been much more effective for the authors to feature more detailed information pertaining to the respondents.

Sampling and recruitment

The sampling approach that has been employed is rather effective given the need to ensure a high degree of generalizing-ability of the study findings. The researchers use eight respondents. However, the authors highlight the fact that the eight respondents have emanated from a sample of 20 first-time mothers. Therefore, it is evident that the eight sampling units are those that were not prone to significant research bias. By recruiting the sampling units at the hospital, it was possible to augment the overall reliability and validity of the study findings.

Research vigour

The design of the research undertaking is such that a significant degree of focus has been given to realizing research vigour. In essence, the reliability of the study emanates from the use of appropriate sampling units. Aside from this, by featuring the means of data collection and analysis, the researchers have elevated the study’s overall validity. Therefore, the study is characterized by significant research vigour.

Data collection tool

There were two prime data collection tools. The audio recording ensured that the researchers had access to real time data. On the other hand, the use of the questionnaires enabled the researchers to gain comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under study. By using two means of collecting data, the researchers elevated the potential for collecting and analyzing comprehensive data. Therefore, the adopted data collection tools were indeed reliable and effective.

Ethics

The authors highlight that consent was sourced from the pertinent bodies. Therefore, it becomes evident that the study has adhered to the ethical standards requisite when undertaking research. However, the authors do not provide a clear understanding of how they were able to meet the ethical standards. Therefore, this is a potential area of improvement.

Analysis

The analysis undertaken herein is comprehensive in nature. Essentially, the researchers apply the tenets of analyzing qualitative data by a significant degree of efficiency. In essence, by grouping the data into the pertinent labels, it becomes plausible to develop comprehensive understanding of the data. However, the researchers fail to highlight the particular strategy that was used as a means of developing inferences. Therefore, there is a need for improvement towards this end.

Conclusions

The conclusions reached are indeed valid. The authors highlight that the results establish that the current culture is impeding the degree of health solutions to be sourced by the first-time mothers. Essentially, the current culture tends to make the first-time mothers believe that breastfeeding challenges are rather unique to this situation. Such a feature functions to aggravate the situation even further.

Strengths and limitations

The core strengths of the article hinge on the sampling, research methodology, review of literature and analysis. On the other hand, its core limitations are the inability to produce an organized content. There is a lack of headings which makes the work difficult to follow.

Overall conclusions

The research is undertaken as well. However, the researchers ought to have used a wider sample, which would have augmented its overall degree of generalization of its study findings. By addressing its weaknesses, the researchers can augment the overall quality of the research.

References

Williamson, Iain, Leeming, Dawn, Lyttle, Steven and Johnson, Sally (2012) It should be the most  natural thing in the world: exploring first­time mothers' breastfeeding difficulties in the UK using  audio­diaries and interviews. Maternal and Child Nutrition, 8 (4). pp. 434­447. ISSN 1740­8695