ARTICLE REVIEW

By

Course title:

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Literature

The literature review adopted in the article has some associated strong points as well as weakness. While the literature review is quite informative, it could have been made clearer to the audience. The use of the interpretive phenomenological analysis approach guides the literature review in a manner that ensures that the set goals of the research undertaking are met. It can be stated that the use of the interpretive phenomenological analysis advances the reliability and validity of the research undertaking, but only to a degree.Despite the strengths of the literature review, the gist of the issue is that it has been put in an unorganized manner. It would have been better for the article to feature an organized approach to addressing the issue at hand. To some degree, the lack of effective organization tends to limit the ability to provide a comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon at hand. According to Dhingra & Dhingra (2012), the core function of literature entails providing an understanding of the current knowledge on the subject at hand. Therefore, in meeting this objective, researchers need to approach the review of literature in an organized manner, which enables them to identify gaps in knowledge, which features as a foundation for additional research. From this understanding, it is evident that the approach employed in the review of literature is inadequate and needs further revision.

Theoretical basis

The article has a strong and consistent theoretical background, given that the research, question, literature review, methodology, and discussion address the same issue. The advantage of having an effective and strong theoretical background hinges on enabling the audience to appreciate the need for the current research undertaking (Kumar, 2012). In line with this understanding, the article identifies the issue of breastfeeding challenges early on in the article. Therefore, the audience develops an understanding of the article’s overall research endeavors. Essentially, the researchers have been effective at identifying all the pertinent dynamics that may affect mothers who face breastfeeding challenges. Chief of these challenges entails social stigma. It needs to be noted that the use of the interpretive phenomenological analysis approach acts as a foundation for the adopted theoretical basis (Tesch, 2013). However, there is a need to point to the lack of effective integration of various related theories. For example, the researchers ought to have associated the willingness to abandon breastfeeding earlier than the recommended six months with relevant theories. Such an approach would have improved the degree of reliability of the study findings.

Research question

The adopted research question, while not clearly stated, can be identified early on when reading the article. From the start, it is evident that the researchers focus on investigating the phenomenon of having trouble breastfeeding. However, it would have been better for the research question to be stated clearly. In this way, it would be possible to critique the formation and presentation of the research question.

Research approach

The adopted research approach entails the use of the qualitative paradigm. Given the nature of the adopted research question, the use of this paradigm is indeed appropriate. The goal of the research is to offer an understanding of the challenges faced by women when breastfeeding. Therefore, the use of a quantitative paradigm would present only a limited understanding of this phenomenon. It needs to be noted that Dykes (2006), Blincoe (2005) and Hauck & Irurita (2002) all use a qualitative paradigm when analyzing the breastfeeding phenomenon. Therefore, the current research undertaking is indeed valid by the adopted research approach.

Social research method

The social research method that has been adopted is effective given the factors at play. Given the nature of the research question, the social research method employed is effective. In investigating phenomenon at one go, longitudinal research would have been appropriate (Elsayed, 2013). However, given the six-month time frame, the use of the longitudinal social research approach was indeed effective (Rohilla, 2010). Essentially, the use of this approach enabled researchers to gain an understanding of the issues that mothers feel in the course of breastfeeding.

Participants

The participants are appropriate given the nature of the research question. Essentially, the chosen participants are those that have the capacity to offer input into the phenomenon being studied. Given the nature of the adopted research question, it is appropriate that the participants are first-time mothers. By using this sampling frame, it becomes possible to advance the ability to answer the adopted research question. Therefore, the inclusion/exclusion criterion is indeed appropriate. Noticeable evidence of bias is distinctively absent.

Sampling and recruitment

One of the core issues with the adopted sampling approach entails its size. Given the nature of the phenomenon under study, there is a need to use a larger sample size. By using a sample of only eight participants, the study limited the degree of input to be gained from the research undertaken. Essentially, the focus should have been on improving the degree of generalization of the study findings by using a larger sample size (Mustafa, 2010). Aside from this, the adopted recruitment strategy is effective given that the sample featured only first-time mothers. Therefore, the researchers mitigated any potential bias that may emanate from the use of none-first time mothers.

Reliability and validity

The only source of concern entails the role that social desirability bias may play in affecting the integrity of the responses provided by the respondents. The article does not feature any strategies that may have been used by the researchers in a bid to lessen the potential for bias from the respondents. Therefore, this is the only source of concern given its bearing on the reliability of the study findings.

Research vigor

Given the nature of the research approach, the researchers have not given adequate regard to vigor. One aspect of research vigor that the researchers do not address hinges on the transferability of the study findings. Essentially, the study establishes that breastfeeding challenges are indeed more rampant than is being appreciated in literature. Essentially, there is limited awareness of the degree to which breastfeeding challenges affect mothers. However, while such input is critical. The main issue of concern is that the study uses a rather limited sample size, which impedes the degree to which the study findings can be generalized. However, the researchers have placed significant regard on ensuring credibility and dependability given the adopted research approach as well as a sampling method.

Data collection

The data collection approach is indeed effective given the nature of the research question. The understanding adopted herein is that the use of the recordings as well as the questionnaires is an effective means of collecting holistic data about the phenomenon at hand.

Ethics

The researchers have given focus on following the ethical code of conduct when collecting and handling data. The need for a greater focus on ethics stems from the fact that infants featured in the data collection. By seeking ethical approval, the researchers have improved the overall reliability of their findings.

Analysis

The data analysis approach employed is effective given that the results were analyzed holistically. The responses provided by each participant were grouped into groups. In this way, it was possible to make sense of the relation between the responses. By using this approach, the authors have been able to develop an understanding of the breastfeeding phenomenon (Bhattacharyya, 2013). Essentially, the themes are appropriate given the nature of the sample size as well as the data collection approaches.

Conclusions

The adopted conclusions are logical, especially given their relation to previous research. The authors have worked to ensure that the conclusions made are linked to the findings from previous research. By adopting this approach, it has become plausible to augment the overall reliability and validity of the study findings.

Future avenues

Future research needs to focus on the effect of the social environment in affecting the coping mechanism of first-time mothers that face breastfeeding challenges.

Strength and limitations

The strength of the research hinges on the adopted theoretical framework, sampling, and research approach. Its core weakness is the small sample size.

Conclusion

 The research is quite informative in providing an understanding of the pertinent dynamics affecting first-time mothers. Essentially, the findings can be used as a justification of the need for solutions to the identified challenges.

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