

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND



FACULTY OF EDUCATION

**MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS
AND MANAGEMENT**

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CURRICULUM AND TEACHING

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER JULY, 2010

COURSE CODE : EDF/EDC 621
TITLE OF PAPER : QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS
INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION TO DO SO HAS
BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

Question 1

Read this excerpt from a research article from the International Journal of Education Research 3 (2): 2007 by researchers from the University of Education Winneba, Ghana. The title of the research is "Employment Opportunities for the Visually Impaired in Ghana."

Respond to the questions that follow.

Instrumentation

The instruments used in data collection are questionnaire and interview. A six-item open-ended brailled questionnaire was developed for the visually impaired teachers involved in the study. A semi-structured interview guide built on the key themes in the research questions was also developed for the executives of the association, the retirees and those individuals identified as engaging in begging.

Data Collection Procedure

A familiarization visit was undertaken to the offices of the Association in Accra and the purpose of our study made known to participants. A convenient date was fixed for each of the association executives upon which we went back to conduct the interview. Each interview session lasted for about 45 minutes to one hour.

For the teachers, we made similar visits to their schools and informed them about the study. To ensure high return rate, we sought their consent for the completion of the brailled questionnaire. These were retrieved on the same day.

Data Analysis

Data collected were analyzed using the interpretive method as well as verbatim expressions of respondents. The interview responses were read over and over in order to identify the key issues which emerged frequently. These were categorized according to the key themes raised in the research questions. As qualitative research is pluralist and leads to significant reduction, organization and interpretation of data, we also held regular meetings to discuss emerging issues and concerns around the themes of our interview guide to achieve the above (Papadopoulos, Scanlon & Lees, 2002).

- (a) Two instruments were used for collecting data what were they? (2 marks)
- (b) Comment briefly on the researcher's choice of instruments. (5 marks)
- (c) How did the researchers ensure that the interview instrument yielded the data that they needed for their research? (5 marks)
- (d) Explain how the interview instrument was appropriate for gathering data from each of the groups involved in the research. (10 marks)

- (e) Why did they visit the offices of the associations and the schools before they went to conduct the research? (3 marks)
- (f) Where did the data collection take place for each group of the informants?
 - i. Association officials
 - ii. Visually impaired teachers
 - iii. retirees
 - iv. beggars (4 marks)
- (g) Which aspect of qualitative research were they fulfilling in collecting data in this way and why was this important? (5 marks)
- (h) Cite one way in which they made the data authentic. (3 marks)
- (i) According to this research what is the function of research questions? (3 marks)
- (j) In this study how did researchers identify emerging themes? (3 marks)
- (k) Researchers in this study cite three things that qualitative researchers do with the data they have collected. Name the three things. (3 marks)
- (l) Comment on the concept of group research. (4 marks)

[50 Marks]

Question 2

Students of UNISWA have complained about conditions in the residential hostels and you have been commissioned to study the situation. Show how you would carry out a qualitative study on the situation. Give your study a title and show clearly what data you would collect and how you would gather it.

[25 marks]

Question 3

Explain the following statements and show their importance in qualitative research.

- (a) Informants not respondents as sources of data.
- (b) Confirmability of research findings

[2x 12½ = 25 marks]