

Did You Know? Qualitative Research

Courtesy of NAGC Research and Evaluation Network

Semi-Structured Interviews: Goal Orientation

The majority of pre-med students exhibited a variety of goal orientations based upon the circumstances.

Through the use of semi-structured interviews, Holowitz (2010) discovered that there were varying patterns of goal orientation among pre-med students. Specifically, the majority of students have various goal orientations based upon the circumstances. Additionally, more students were primarily mastery oriented.

Ethnography: Educational Reform

From the theoretical framework of neo-liberalism, educational reform should be more student-focused.

Ethnographic data from a sample of Australian youth underscores the importance that current educational reform efforts focus on the interests of all young people, rather than from the institutions. "It contends that in the interests of all young people, it is time for schools to resist the systematic impulses to make them producers of human capital and claim their role as transformative institutions of human possibility" (McGregor, 2009, p. 345).

On-line Interviews: Underachievement in College

A lack of preparation in high school led to underachievement in college.

Through instant messaging interviews, Balduf (2009) found that participant's underachievement in college could be due to a lack of preparation and challenge in high school coursework. Specific challenges included: underdeveloped study skills, poor time management, and internal versus external motivation.

Visual Methods: Graphic Novels

Graphic novels are used in a collaborative way with participants to collect qualitative data.

The use of collaborative data collection and analysis techniques has been widely documented in the research, however the representation of this data can be problematic. One way to address these concerns is through the collaborative process of creating a graphic novel (Galman, 2009).

Focus Groups: Coping with Stress

Gifted students are less likely to procrastinate or spend more time with friends as a response to stress than their non-identified, high achieving peers.

Through the use of focus groups, Shaunessy and Suldo (2010) found that gifted and non-identified high-achieving peers have different patterns of coping with stress, although there were similar coping mechanisms between the groups.

Mixed Methods: Educational Wikis

Self-efficacy, perceptions of difficulty and usefulness, and intention all contributed to the use of wikis in educational settings.

Qualitative and quantitative data were used to develop a model that predicted the impact of wiki usage in the classroom (Liu, 2010).

Grounded Analysis: Socio-Affective Concerns

Family relationships and peer relationships, and spirituality are important to the socio-affective development of children.

Using the Philippine Thematic Appreciation Test, Garces-Bascal (2010) analyzed the socio-emotional concerns of 22 primary school aged, gifted children. Using grounded analysis of the narratives, several themes emerged from the data, including: the importance of family relationships, the perception of intelligence, the characterization of heroes, peer relationships, and spirituality.



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