Research Design and Sampling

The empirical research article on the relationship between postpartum depression, domestic violence child violence, and substance abuse is characterized by qualitative research because of some aspects of the study which justify it as qualitative. Firstly, the study is focused and designed to reveal a particular range of behavior on the targeted audience. This research is qualitative because it aims at understanding the relationship between two social behaviors in substance abuse and interpersonal violence. This is the main feature in a qualitative analysis as it seeks to understand social behavior which is difficult and almost impossible to quantify. Secondly, this study is qualitative because it is based on an in-depth study or examination of a small group of the study population which is used to support and guide hypothesis development/construction. The study has used a group/sample of 634 women from British Columbia in Canada who were tested to determine the influence of drugs on interpersonal violence. In this way, the study bears a characteristic of qualitative research. The third justification of this empirical research being qualitative is based on the results of the survey which is descriptive rather than predictive. The results and findings of the study are used to describe the behavior of women who abuse substances regarding interpersonal violence. The study established that women who have an experience in drug addiction or interpersonal conflict should be targeted for a postpartum screening of depression. These results are therefore descriptive, which translates to qualitative research.

The sampling methods used in this research article are qualitative. The study uses non-probability sampling hence there is no need to aim at producing representative samples which are statistically represented or which bring a statistical interpretation. The phenomenon in this research which is post-partum depression appears only one time in the sample. The qualitative sampling method used in this empirical research article is purposive /purposeful sampling. The study selected the participants following a pre-selected criterion. The creation of a non-random sample is based on a predetermined factor in the target population. The predetermined factor in this study is women who had experienced previous cases of interpersonal violence, or substance use. A desirable number of 634 women from British Colombia was chosen as the sample population, who would be tested for postpartum symptomatology depression. The study had an already predetermined in that it targeted women and in specific those who had either experienced inter personal conflicts or had a drug/substance abuse current or previous condition. This, therefore, meant that the sampling method/procedure which could be applied was purposive, which provided the best sample to be used in creating and developing the hypothesis of the research. The sample size was determined by theoretical saturation whereby new samples would no longer provide additional insights to the study. The purposeful sample was effective in testing and proving the hypothesis, as the study established that women with records of interpersonal violence or drug abuse problems should be targeted during postpartum depression screening.

Using the purposive sampling method in this research serves to maximize the generalizability of the findings. Based on the study population and target which is women with interpersonal conflicts or substance problems the sampling technique used maximizes generalizability because of the pre-identified factors of the study population which are constant to and are uniform in similar parts of the world irrespective of the environment. The sampling technique identifies substance issues and interpersonal conflicts in women as constant factors which impact on postpartum depressive symptomatology. The use of purposive sampling which is based on predetermined factors of choosing the sample enables generalizability of the findings to the entire women population in British Columbia. It also enables transferability of the findings into real life whereby psychologists and psychiatrist can consider interpersonal conflicts and substance issues as major factors when diagnosing depressive symptomatology.

This research article has some limitations which may affect the credibility and reliability of the study. The first limitation is that the study was not tested on different environments. For increased reliability and credibility, a study hypothesis should be tested in different environments and compare the results. If it produces similar results under different environments, then the study becomes more reliable. However, this study has only been tested on British Columbian women in Canada, though the predetermining factors of the population are the same. Secondly, the experiment results of this study have only been tested using the Edinburgh postnatal depression scale (EPDS), a scale used to predict postpartum depressive symptomatology. The reliability of the study on only one measurement tool for the variables is a limitation which can affect the reliability and credibility of the study. The study is also affected by a relatively low percentage of respondents in that only 497 of the respondents of the 634 subsequently responded to the questionnaire. This turns to be 78% which is fair but could also hinder reliability of results, and it would be better if the percentage were higher.

A method of improving the sampling plan for the future in this research is supplementing the sample frame. This is a technique of improving the research sample by enumeration or snowballing. Enumeration is whereby the research will supplement the frame by making consultations with neighbors or other people connected to the initial respondents, who fulfill the specified criteria for a respondent in the study. This will increase the sample size hence increasing the reliability of findings. Snowballing includes a case whereby the research will enquire about other people known to the respondents who have similar characteristics, in a bid to increase the sample size.

References

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