

CHAPTER –3

RESEARCH

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, the research method will be discussed. This entails the selection of a qualitative design and preparation for data collection. Decisions on how the sample was framed and developed, my role in this study, how entry to a research site was gained, data collection methods and a protocol for recording information and analysis of data is discussed issues are also discussed in this chapter.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN

A qualitative research design was implemented. The most commonly used labels appear to be field research or fieldwork, naturalism, ethnography, interpretive research and constructivist research. A qualitative research design was selected because of the following reasons: The aim of the study was not to explain human behavior in terms of universally valid laws or generalization, but to understand and interpret the meanings and intentions that underlie everyday human actions.

Qualitative research as a multi perspective approach enabled me to utilize different qualitative techniques and data collection methods to social interaction, in contrast to quantitative studies which emphasize the measurement and analysis of causal relationships between variables, not processes. Observations rather than experiments were employed in this study. The family background and the social environment of the participants were also considered in this study, in order to understand their substance abuse behavior.

SAMPLING

The sample in this study was drawn from DMS Bhopal. For the purpose of this study, only DMS Bhopal were regarded as the population of this study. A group of adolescents abusing

Examples of aspects that were observed included the following; appropriate eye contact and facial expression, a relaxed natural posture, encouraging communication by leaning slightly forward, nodding in agreement, and using minimal utterances such as „umm□, „hmm□ or „yes□. This type of attending behavior demonstrated respect for the interviewees as well as the interviewer’s honesty, sincerity, empathy, understanding and enhance the important sense of equality between the parties. The interviewer’s recognition of the interviewee’s nonverbal communication gives the latter a sense of being understood at a deeper level than the level of the words.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Debriefing

Before conducting interviews, I explained the purpose and procedures of the study. Participants were informed about all the procedures that were to be followed in this study. Details about dates and venues for the study were clearly explained to participants. An attempt was made to remove any misconceptions that the participants may have about the study.

Voluntary participation

Before conducting the interviews, I made participants aware that participation in the study was voluntary, that they may withdraw from the study at any time if they wish to do so. However, the participants were informed that their participation was important for this study and that it will contribute to understanding the reasons for adolescent substance use.

Confidentiality

The participants were assured that all the information obtained was to be treated as confidential. That is, data will only be used for stated purposes and no other person will have access to interview data. Data were kept safely in case there were queries about them at a later date. Audio-tapes were locked away. Computer data were protected by a password. At the end of the process, all documents will be shredded and tapes will be erased.

DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis consisted of systematically searching and arranging the interview transcripts, field notes and other materials that I accumulated in order to increase my understanding of them and to facilitate presentation of what was discovered to others. Furthermore, the analysis involved working with data, organizing it, breaking it into manageable units, synthesizing it, searching for patterns, discovering what is important and what is to be learned and deciding what needed to be divulged to others. The following techniques, adapted from Cresswell (1997) were used to ensure that the qualitative data obtained and subsequent data analysis are dependable and credible: focused observation in the field and triangulation of data using multiple data sources, multiple methods and multiple data analysts. The data will be presented in the form of short quotations from the male adolescents participating in the study.

RESEARCH BENEFITS

The participants were informed that they would not receive any monetary benefits from the study, however, they were informed that their participation in this study provided both indirect and direct benefits to them and their communities. The study also provided informative

debriefing for participants and as such participants were able to discuss their substance abuse behavior, other challenges that they encounter during the developmental stage of adolescence, as well as in their families. They were also able to share their concerns or interests with me. In addition, as mentioned earlier, a social worker was available in case participants required her services. They were also provided with information about health facilities available at their schools and in their communities. Participation in the study also offered the following indirect benefits: participation in the study provided more understanding about the reasons for substance abuse.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

The following aspects were discussed in this chapter: sampling, setting of the study, role of the researcher, ways of recruiting participants, data collection, ethical considerations, data analysis, thematic analysis and research benefits of the study.