

Course Title:	Qualitative Research Methods
Course Code:	BSTA-404
Semester:	VII
Credit Hours:	03

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the role of qualitative research in biostatistics and public health.
2. Be familiar with different qualitative research methodologies and their appropriate use.
3. Learn how to design a qualitative research study, including sampling, data collection, and ethical considerations.
4. Develop skills in qualitative data analysis, including coding, thematic analysis, and the use of software tools.
5. Gain experience in integrating qualitative and quantitative research findings.
6. Critically evaluate the quality and rigor of qualitative research studies.

Course Outline

Unit – I

1.1. Introduction to Qualitative Research

Overview of Qualitative Research and its Role in Biostatistics, Comparison between Qualitative and Quantitative Research, Epistemological and Theoretical Foundations of Qualitative Research, Applications in Public Health and Biostatistics.

1.2 Research Design and Methodologies

Qualitative Research Designs: Case Studies, Ethnography, Grounded Theory, Phenomenology. Choosing the Appropriate Methodology. Formulating Research Questions and Objectives.

1.3 Sampling in Qualitative Research

Probability and Non-probability Sampling Techniques: Simple Random, Stratified, Systematic, Cluster, Purposive, Snowball, Quota, Convenience.

1.4 Data Collection Methods

Interviews, Focus Groups, Observations and Document Analysis.

1.5 Research Instrument Design

Questionnaire Design – Theory and Applications.

Unit-II

2.1 Qualitative Data Analysis I: Introduction and Coding

Overview of Qualitative Data Analysis, Introduction to Coding: Open, Axial, and Selective Coding. Using Software for Qualitative Data Analysis (e.g., NVivo, ATLAS.ti).

2.2 Qualitative Data Analysis II: Thematic Analysis

Identifying Themes and Patterns, Techniques for Thematic Analysis, Writing Up Thematic Findings, Ensuring Rigor in Thematic Analysis.

2.3 Qualitative Data Analysis III: Narrative and Content Analysis

Narrative Analysis: Techniques and Applications, Content Analysis: Quantifying Qualitative Data, Integrating Narrative and Content Analysis with Other Methods.

2.4 Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods

Mixed Methods Research: Definition and Rationale, Designing a Mixed Methods Study, Triangulation and Integrating Findings.

2.5 Ensuring Quality in Qualitative Research

Criteria for Evaluating Qualitative Research: Credibility, Transferability, Dependability, Confirmability. Strategies to Enhance Rigor: Triangulation, Member Checking, Peer Debriefing. Addressing Ethical Issues and Researcher Reflexivity.

2.6 Writing and Presenting Qualitative Research

Structuring a Qualitative Research Report, Writing for Different Audiences: Academic, Policy, Public Health, Presenting Qualitative Findings, Responding to Reviewers' Feedback.

- **Teaching-learning Strategies:**

Class Lecture method, which includes seminars, discussions, assignments and projects. (Audio-visual tools are used where necessary)

- **Assignments-Types and Number with calendar:**

According to the choice of respective teacher.

- **Assessment and Examinations:**

According to the University's Semester Rules.

Sr. No.	Elements	Weightage	Details
1.	Midterm Assessment	35%	It takes place at the mid-point of the semester.
2.	Formative Assessment	25%	It is continuous assessment. It includes: Classroom participation, attendance, assignments, and presentations, homework, attitude and behavior, hands-on-activities, short tests, quizzes

			etc.
3.	Final Assessment	40%	It takes place at the end of the semester. It is mostly in the form of a test, but owing to the nature of the course the teacher may assess their students based on term paper, research proposal development, field work and report writing etc.