Introduction to Critical Appraisal of a Qualitative Paper

L&IS
Learning and Research Support
Aim of workshop

• To consider one model for appraising qualitative research (based on 4 aspects of trustworthiness)
• To practise using this model on a sample article
Trustworthiness in Qualitative Research

1. Credibility
   • Is the research giving a true picture of the reality of participants’ experiences? Can you believe the results?

2. Transferability
   • Can the research be transferred to other settings?

3. Dependability
   • Would the results be similar if the study was repeated? How consistent are the data and findings? Would it be easy to repeat the research?

4. Confirmability
   • Has the researcher attempted to limit bias?
Strategies for Credibility

- Data collected over prolonged period of time and variety of participants
- Well-established research method
- Familiarity of researcher with setting
- Competence of researcher established
- Reflective field diary
- Scrutiny of research – by peers or steering group
- Triangulation – variety of research methods or investigators
- Honesty encouraged eg only willing volunteers
- Participants involved in analysis of research and view results as credible
Strategies for Transferability

• Meaningful sample:
  • Purposive (gives meaningful data) or
  • Theoretical (allows theory to be tested) or
  • Nominated (selected by key informants)

• Comparison of sample with demographic data

• Rich description of research setting

• Data saturation (all data heard before)
Strategies for Dependability

• Processes reported in detail – section included on research design
• Audit of findings
  • eg two or more researchers independently judge data
• Triangulation - variety of research methods or investigators
• Negative case analysis – hypothesis covers all cases within data
• Data saturation
• Peer examination
Strategies for Confirmability

• Audit
• Triangulation
• Negative case analysis
• Collaborative analysis
• Peer review of analysis
• Member checking
• Reflective approach – admission of researcher beliefs
Writing up the appraisal

• Go through each element one at a time e.g. credibility and directly compare all your articles under this.
  • Are some better than others?
• Then move onto the next element.
• After all the elements, can you say if any of your articles are better overall?
References
