

# Innovations and Methodological Interventions of Qualitative Approach in Educational Research

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## ABSTRACT

Qualitative research is one of the important and emerging innovations in the field of educational research. Basically it is a powerful method of quality analysis and non numerical intervention to the research content. Qualitative research executed on the basis of qualitative data and open ended questions. One of the important things of this approach deals with socio personal perspective which depends on social and personal experience problems point of views and Behaviour.

Its execution occurs at a deep introspective level. Because subjective introspection is the keyword feature of this approach. Qualitative research based on the post positivist and interpretivist paradigm which oppose the idea of positivistic approach. This research is a study of inductive reasoning and observational perspective of learning.

**KEYWORDS:** *Positivism, Post-positivism, Introspection, Subjectivity, Socio-personal perspective*

## INTRODUCTION

Qualitative research is the subjective dimension of the research method. Human attachment and personal involvement is the key concept of qualitative research. Researcher applies his subjective introspection and contextual analysis to innovate and explore the existing condition. Qualitative research is basically an iterative approach which helps to continuously explore new things, new genres and new aspects of understanding in human society. Qualitative research helps to integrate the idea of education with the social behavioural phenomena. Qualitative research is based on the opening perspective it helps to generate the contextual approaches and the perspective oriented study in the field of research. It is a huge paradigm shift from objectivity to subjectivity. We can say that it is the purposeful and realistic outcome of the post-positivist approach. Post positivist approach is a research philosophy that helps to integrate and assimilate the researcher's personal observation and self reflexivity

in the research analysis; it is totally a non numerical or semi-numerical approach in the research.

### Objectives of the study:

The objectives of the studies are,  
To identify the basic notions of Qualitative research.  
To explain the paradigmatic reflection of Qualitative research.  
To define the various contexts of Qualitative research.  
To analyse the Indian philosophical scenario of Qualitative research.

### Foundations of Qualitative Research

Qualitative research is grounded in philosophical paradigms such as post-positivism and interpretivism, which challenge the positivist notion of objective truth and absolute certainty. Post-positivism acknowledges the subjectivity of knowledge construction while advocating for rigorous yet flexible methodologies (Guba & Lincoln, 1994). Interpretivism emphasizes understanding social

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realities through the subjective interpretations of individuals within their unique contexts (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). These paradigms provide qualitative researchers with frameworks to explore the complexity of educational phenomena and the diverse perspectives of learners and educators.

### Methodological Innovations

1. **Open-Ended Questioning and Probing:** Qualitative research employs open-ended questions and probing techniques to elicit detailed narratives and deep insights from participants (Patton, 2015). This approach allows researchers to uncover rich, contextualized data that reveal the complexities of educational experiences and practices.
2. **Thick Description and Contextual Analysis:** Qualitative researchers often employ thick description, a term coined by Geertz (1973), to provide detailed, contextually rich accounts of educational phenomena. This methodological approach emphasizes the cultural, social, and historical contexts that shape educational practices and meanings.
3. **Reflexivity and Positionality:** Qualitative researchers engage in reflexivity to critically examine their own biases, assumptions, and positions within the research process (Finlay, 2002). Acknowledging researcher positionality enhances the transparency and rigor of qualitative inquiry, allowing for a deeper understanding of how the researcher's perspective influences data interpretation.
4. **Narrative and Life History Analysis:** Narrative and life history approaches are used to explore individuals' experiences over time, offering insights into identity formation, learning trajectories, and the socio-cultural influences on educational development (Riessman, 2008). These methods enable researchers to uncover the personal and collective narratives that shape educational experiences.
5. **Visual and Arts-Based Methods:** Qualitative researchers increasingly employ visual and arts-based methods such as photography, drawing, and performance to capture and interpret educational experiences and social dynamics (Pink, 2013). These creative approaches provide alternative ways of understanding complex phenomena beyond verbal or written communication.
6. **Emic perspective:** Qualitative research uses the first order interpretation which was gained from the participant perspective. Basically it is a

phenomenological analysis which helps to develop a holistic picture of the situation.

7. **Hermeneutics:** This is the most important notion of the post-positivist analysis. It is a method of in detailed description and interpretation of the text and existing documentations. Obviously it based on the subjective viewpoint. it was found that **Friederich Schleiermacher** was the founding father of hermeneutics. His well-known theory is about intuitive interpretation or intuition-based interpretation.
8. **Thick description:** In qualitative research the term "thick description" is used as a way of describing observations and interpretations that incorporate a level contextual detail. Thick descriptions take into account the directly unobservable contextual understandings that make an action or social event meaningful.(Denzin, 1989)

### Contributions to Educational Research

Qualitative research has made significant contributions to educational research by offering nuanced insights into complex educational phenomena that quantitative methods alone cannot capture. By focusing on socio-personal perspectives and contextual factors, qualitative research enhances our understanding of diverse learner experiences, pedagogical practices, and institutional dynamics. This approach promotes reflective practice among educators and policymakers, encouraging them to consider the diverse contexts and lived realities of students and stakeholders within educational settings.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, qualitative research represents a transformative approach in educational research, challenging conventional methodologies and offering innovative insights into educational practices and experiences. By embracing paradigms such as post-positivism and interpretivism, qualitative researchers deepen our understanding of educational phenomena through rich, contextual analysis and nuanced interpretations. Moving forward, qualitative research continues to evolve, incorporating interdisciplinary perspectives and innovative methodologies to address emerging challenges in education and society.

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