

Prepare field work for Research

Yam Nath Giri

M. Phil. Development Studies

1st semester KUSOED

Outline

- Definition / purpose
- Types of field work preparation

Physical and mental

Academic

- Conclusion
- References

Fieldwork

- To grasp the native's point of view, his relation to life, to realize his vision of his world.

Wolf & Pant (2007)

- Interacting with the real world situation and the people in them.

Yin (2011, P. 109).

Type of field work preparation

- Physical and mental Preparation
 - Paperwork
 - Researching the field
 - Communications and Record Keeping
 - Things to think about
- Data tools preparation

Paperwork

- Take permits to conduct research.
- Be prepared for additional, unexpected bureaucracy.
- Draft a timetable before you leave.
- Create a check list of everything you need to do before you leave.

-Edinburgh University (nd.)

Researching the field

- Learn about the culture of your field-site.
- learn the language of natives or to manage some interpreter/ translator.
- Ensure know about any possible risks in field:
protest/ social unrest/ fuel shortages etc.
- Make general sense of the routines/timetables.

Cont . .

- Take note of religious/public holidays
- Find a ‘social’ gatekeeper or contact
- Check the transport situation is like.
- Take information on health and other basic facilities
- Be excited for the fieldwork instead as a burden.

-Edinburgh University (nd.)

Communications and Record Keeping

- Contact your supervisors before you leave.
- Make sure emergency contact details for supervisor.
- Tell as many people about proposed research.
- Keep a research diary/ keep a note pad for reflections.

-Edinburgh University (nd.)

Things to think about

- Make contact with people in your field.
- Travel Luggage / Bags / Dress and Shoes
- Stationary
- Camera and other technical gadget/batteries/chargers/
mobile phones
- Transportation/ Routes / Timings / Important places/
Bus Stops/ Some Contacts
- Food and Water

Haider (2014).

Academic preparation

The main objective of the field work is to collect the data from primary source

Know about data source

Interview

Questionnaire

Observation

Schedule

Case Study

Rating

Test etc

Preparation for field work : Preparation for data collection

Preparation for data collection : preparation for tools.

Khanal, (2064).

Preparation for interview

- Interview
 - Structured, un structured, semi-structured
 - Face to face, one to many
- Make interview schedule
- Make question
- Test question
- Preparation for recorded
- Ensure reliability and validity. Khanal (2064).

Preparation for questionnaire

- What you want to measure from questionnaire
 - Intention?
 - Attitude and opinion?
 - Activity or behavior?
 - Demographic characteristic?
- Aware about :
- Type of question
 - Open question
 - Closed question
 - Mixed question etc

Cont..

- Length of question
- Wording in question
- Order of question
- Then, Make question related with purpose
- Ensure reliability and validity

Abbott & Kenneth (2007).

Preparation for observation

- The act of watching subject carefully for a period of time, specially to learn subject.
- Clear about what type of observation would you conduct
 - Participant observation
 - non participant observation
 - Quasi observation

Pant & Wolff (2007)

Preparation for observation

Know about

- Nature of sub/person
- Brief description about sub/person
- Make planning of observation.
- Know about social scale.
- Make a schedule/index

Pant & Wolff (2007)

Reflection

Prepared field work : ready to give answer

- What is the study about?
- Why is the study about?
- Where is the study carried out?
- What type of data is required?
- Where can the required data found?

Cont...

- What period of time will be include?
- Who are the respondents?
- What technique of data collection will be used?
- How manage the physical necessity ?
- How ensure the validity/ and reliability of tools?

References :

- A. B. Abbott & B. S. Kenneth, (2007). *Research design and methods* (6th ed.). New Delhi. Tata McGraw-Hill.
- Edinburgh University (nd.). *Preparing for Fieldwork*. Retrieve from:
www.sps.ed.ac.uk/.../pdf.../Preparing_for_Field
- Haider, S. (2014). *Research Matters (Thesis in Social Sciences and Humanities)*. Islamabad. Quaid-i-Azam University. Retrieve from: www.slideshare.net/sajjadhaider786/research-matters 3580298+&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk
- Khanal, P. (2064). *Educational research methodology* (3rd ed.). Kathmandu. Sunlight publication.
- Pant, P.R& Wolff H.K.(2007). *Social science research and thesis writing* (7th ed.). Kathmandu. Buddha Academic Publisher.
- Yin K.R.(2011). *Qualitative research from start to finish*. USA. The Guilford Press.