

CHANGING PERSPECTIVES IN THE ISSUES OF GENERALISABILITY, VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY AS APPLIED TO THE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH PARADIGM

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ABSTRACT

This concept paper addresses the changing perspectives with regards to the issues of generalisability, reliability and validity within the framework of the qualitative research paradigm. The three concepts were viewed as the exclusive preserve of the quantitative research methodology, a branch of research diametrically opposed to the qualitative research paradigm. The paper sets off with the conceptual framework beaming at the quartet concepts of qualitative research, generalisability, validity and reliability. As the discourse progresses, coming in for attention is the discussion on how qualitative research can embrace the issues of generalisability, validity and reliability. Conclusions and recommendations gleaned from the discourse inevitably hinge strongly on the argument to encapsulate the three concepts in all phases of the qualitative research paradigm.

Keywords: Generalisation, validity, reliability, research, qualitative research, paradigm, triangulation, research methods, mixed methods, methodology.