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RESEARCH ARTICLE

NARRATIVE AND PHENOMENOLOGICAL METHODOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS A COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH IN THE WEST BANK

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Abstract

The researcher will construct narrative and phenomenological methodologies within this study. The purpose of this proposal is to use two qualitative methodologies to address the multi-dimensional research phenomena, and to generate a new understanding of people's living experiences in Hebron community, the West Bank. Findings will be accessed in narrative research and phenomenological study to help the researcher to explore the experiences of Palestinian and Israeli settlers in Hebron and analyze how these participants feel about health risks they are facing. The purpose of the study was to identify how and why the Palestinian and Israeli children in the community have problems, and why the conflicts were accelerating between the two groups. The researcher will conduct interviews with focus groups in order to discover how the participants attach to the community. The researcher will have to collect the data after obtaining the Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. Also, in-depth qualitative interviews can be used in both phenomenology research and narrative research. The reason for choosing both phenomenology research and narrative research is because narrative research can be chosen for the interpretation of the context of people's experiences. Narrative research can also be used to assess how people access water in the Palestinian and Israeli settlements respectively through an open-ended process (Czarniawska, 2004).

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Introduction:-

Problem Statement

Environmental injustice and water distribution escalated the conflicts between Palestinian and Israeli settlers in Hebron city, the West Bank. Children's health and lives were facing danger (World Health Organization, 2009). According to the World Health Organization, waterborne diseases were increasing, and people were suffering from diarrhea, hepatitis, and other different diseases. Additionally, the unequal distribution of water resources for Arab and Israeli settlers has escalated this conflict (World Health Organization, 2009). Many local children were affected by violence and the number of refugees were increasing as well (Waldman, 2018). Children often experience intense emotional and physical discomfort (John & Gross, 2013). When people leave their homes and move to other areas in order to avoid the violence and hunger, it will cause conflicts between the new and the current settlers (Valdivieso & Allmen, 2001). If Arabs and Israeli people have two different religious backgrounds and traditions, they might identify themselves different from each other which also caused in-group favoritism and out-group discrimination.

Research Topic

The research topic is based on using narrative and phenomenological research in exploring the health risks and conflicting experiences of Palestinian and Israeli settlers: a methodological reflection on a community-based research in the West Bank. This paper aims to present how the two qualitative methodologies can be flexibly used to help the researcher seek the reality from individuals' experiences, as well as to understand people's feelings through the in-depth interview.

Research Questions

Research questions include: Have people ever noticed the phenomenon of environmental injustice and can they describe the situation of unequal natural resource distribution between Jewish and Arab people? How do people feel about the phenomenon of environmental injustice and their living conditions? Do they have any concerns about the health problems of children? And why do the participants think the settlement conflict among the two groups was continuing.

Practical Implications

The advantage of choosing two mixed narrative and phenomenological qualitative methodologies includes providing insights for the study of a phenomenon (Moustakas, 1994). By using the qualitative approaches to a community-based research project in a West Bank city, the researcher can evaluate ways to implement resolutions for further policy making. The researcher will summarize similarities and differences among the two methodologies, discuss the goals of the two methodologies, and analyze the process of data collection and data analysis. For example, the goal of phenomenology research is to study people's lived experiences and help increase the understanding of how language and culture can shape personal values (Squires, 2009). The findings of this study are essential for policy-makers and aid organizations to help vulnerable groups, and to understand how the people experienced the chronic illnesses caused by environmental injustice and health poverty. Also, the researcher will learn ideas from different races and minorities and allow the participants to express their feelings such as emotional pains, anger, and depression.

Conceptual Framework and Research Design**Definition of Phenomenology and Narrative Methods**

Phenomenology was established in the 20th century by Edmund Husserl as a method to explore the meaning of a phenomenon. Husserl stressed that the person should engage in dialogue in order to grasp the subjective dimensions of human experiences (Husserl, 2013). Also, the phenomenology method was integrated by Merleau-Ponty, Heidegger, and Sartre (Clark, 1994). Husserl emphasized exploring the participants' experiences of a phenomenon and identified the structures of human experiences (Husserl, 2013). Heidegger indicated that participants have unique experiences and inter-relationships. Heidegger believed that investigation and interpretation of human experiences are essential when conducting phenomenological research (Heidegger & Hofstadter, 1988). Also, Finlay (2009) indicated that phenomenological research is a description of lived experiences (Finlay, 2009). Phenomenological research provides the researcher a framework and a guide in collecting and analyzing data (Giorgi, 1985). For example, phenomenological semi-structured interviews can be designed to obtain participants' personal perspectives related to the experiences of Arab settlement-seekers when they cross the land (Moustakas, 1994). However, the researcher needs to pay attention to avoid biases and pursue the truth about people's experiences and emotions.

When choosing the narrative methodology to collect evidence of health and risk information, the researcher can encourage participants to communicate and share their knowledge, emotions, and beliefs in order to help understand participants' points of view and fluctuation of their feelings (Sandelowski & Leeman, 2012). The researcher also plans to use narrative research to understand the local culture of the Arab and Israeli settlers and how culture could shape their experiences (Czarniawska, 2004). The researcher will investigate people's stories and learn about the history of that place.

Sample Selection

Husserl (2013) stated that there was a positive relationship between consciousness and objects. Intentionality, which means that an object exists in the human mind in an intentional way, is a fundamental characteristic of a phenomenological study (Smith, Flowers, & Larkin, 2009). Sample selection is an important step in qualitative research. Arabic, Hebrew, and English languages will be chosen in the qualitative interviews. The researcher will make a sampling plan to describe how many observations, interviews, and focus groups will be needed and to make sure that the findings will contribute to further data research. In this research, participants will be children between 0

to 15 years old, and if the participants do not have the ability to respond to the interview questions or survey, their parents will be invited to participate instead. Narrative and phenomenological research will be conducted separately to analyze the distinctions between the experiences of Arab and Israeli settlers and will be used to investigate their views about immigrant newcomers.

Data Collection

Phenomenology Research.

The researcher will investigate the living situation of children and the general health issues of the participants. The researcher will first choose the phenomenological method in data collection. For phenomenological study, the researcher can use group interviews to observe the culture and norms within that society (Moustakas, 1994). A focus group discussion will be chosen to explore a specific topic. The purpose of choosing focus group research is to discover respondents' attitudes, feelings, and reactions. The participants in the focus group might have shared backgrounds or shared experiences. The researcher will interview 200 Arabs who self-identified as being involved within a culture and 200 Israelis who have shared norms and values. Also, the data will be collected for 2 to 3 months with open-ended questions for the in-depth interviews. Also, the researcher can obtain a close relationship with each group and get trust from the participants, so that they will be willing to share their thoughts and feelings in the interviews.

Field notes will be taken together data and information (Lofland, 1999). The field notes will be written along with the transcripts. Also, in phenomenological research, data can be collected from report transcripts, recordings, reading documents, analytical memos, and videos (Giorgi, 1985). Additionally, before the interviews begin, the researcher will ask permission to record interviews and take notes. The researcher needs to hire interpreters to be able to translate different languages. In order to gain an understanding of the health situation, the researcher also needs to consult health professionals and psychologists. The participants will provide written informed consent forms and complete the demographic survey.

Also, participant observation will be used as a method of data collection. Face-to-face interviews and cell phone interviews will be utilized to collect data. The aim is to understand the meaning of what the participants say and to explain their concerns. The goal of asking interview questions is to learn about participants' experiences in the community and how they live with another ethnic group (Angrosino, 2007). The researcher will ask questions such as: Can you describe your drinking habits? Do you see any changes during these years about the usage of water? How have you adjusted to the change? How do you perceive the distribution of water resources between you and another religious group? And how do you think the water shortage problems impact your health?

Moreover, phenomenological questions can reveal human experiences. Phenomenological questions could include: How do parents of a child cope with the situation when their child experiences a water shortage? What does it look like if people experience hunger and a natural disaster? How does it feel to live in a community with a life-threatening disease? Do you feel there are any problems or threats to live in the community? And how do you think to be a minority group living in a community with another predominant race or ethnic group?

Narrative Research.

Narrative research can be helpful if the researcher wants to investigate more detail information of one or two individuals besides a focus group investigation. The mixed approaches of narrative and phenomenology researchers will help the researcher form a cohesive story. Narrative method can help people vividly engaging in the research atmosphere and help people identify problems of whose Arab and Israeli participants (Riessman, 2008). The researcher can gather information from storytelling, semi-structured interviews, questionnaires, personal stories, and writing letters and emails (Mearns, 1985).

It is important to know how to gain access to the community and build a relationship with the participants (John & Gross, 2013). Participant observation is important when the researcher wants to examine the psychological stress and associated health risk (Angrosino, 2007). The researcher will take notes when observing, as well as conducting audio and video recordings. Also, participant observation can be used in both narrative and phenomenology study to learn from a single individual experience and from the perspectives of a group. Additionally, narrative research not only shares similar approaches with phenomenology method but also creates more structured interviews to explore individual's experiences instead of over-viewing the whole situation from a group interview.

How does the researcher perform observations in the targeted community? The researcher will observe not only the living situation of participants' family, but also go to nearby neighborhoods to investigate how do people have different access to water. For example, the researcher will go to the high- class neighborhood as well as observe middle and lower classes neighborhoods, in order to compare one with another. Moreover, the researcher will randomly choose Arab and Israeli people in different neighborhoods to make sure the interview sample will be distributed fairly and validly.

Interviews can help the researcher have a better understanding about the past or present situations of the participant (Measor, 1985). Especially gaining access to get a broad picture for the research topic. The researcher will choose semi-structured interviews to collect data in narrative research as well to grasp what is happening within a sample. Also, open-ended questions will be designed. Private personal narrative interview will give the participant space to discuss some sensitive issues with the researcher, such as their political attitudes, sexual orientations, or legal backgrounds. Why is a qualitative face to face interview in narrative research also essential as phenomenology research? Individual face to face interview allows the researcher to initiate conversations with the participant and gain more accurate detail information (Measor, 1985). Narratives can be a form of evidence to guide the researcher having a deeper understanding of a phenomenon. When listening to the participants' stories, narrative research method will enhance the understanding of the cultural contexts and existing problems related to the competition of gaining resources.

Data Analysis

Strategies of analyzing data include questioning, making comparison between different methodologies, thinking about meaning of the words, looking at the language, looking for negative cases, and using other analytical tools (Corbin & Strauss, 2007). After collecting data, the researcher needs to analyze the data. The researcher will use phenomenology research and narrative research methods to analyze the data.

Phenomenology Data Analysis.

The phenomenological analysis will focus on grasping the researcher's subjectivity and clarify the preconception (Giorgi, 1985). Data is analyzed in order to understand the meanings of participants' experiences. Before analyzing data, the researcher should be empathetic and carefully listening to people's stories. When analyzing data, the research can grasp the essence of the phenomenon and to compare the living condition between Israeli and Arab settlers and their ideas towards another group. Analyzing steps include theming, summarizing the data, coding data, and developing themes (Smith, Flowers, & Larkin, 2009). Phenomenology requires the researcher to present the descriptions of the story which was given by the participants. Through content analysis, examine data, organized themes, and recode the process, the researcher will be able to have a picture of the experiences of the participant.

Emotional Coding and Values Coding tap into the inner cognitive system of humans. Emotion Coding represents the feelings of participants and Value Coding assesses their value, attitude, and beliefs (Saldaña, 2009). Phenomenology method helps the researcher construct descriptions and find the meaning in the context of how people live in their lives. A strategy in phenomenological study is to analyze themes from the interview transcripts (Measor, 1985). For example, Giorgi's (1985) descriptive phenomenological approach indicated that the researcher will analyze the qualitative findings and represent the participants' thoughts and experiences (Giorgi, 2012). Synthesizing the contents and organizing documents into a structured theme are essential when analyzing the data. The researcher can choose the major theme to develop further thoughts and explanations. The purpose is to find the meaning of people's experiences within a phenomenon. If the researcher is not a local language speaker, she should be aware of common mistakes when translating the original documents. The researcher needs to taking explanatory notes.

Narrative Data Analysis.

Thematic analysis is an approach to letters, diaries, and documents. Also, structural analysis is tied to theorizing literary texts and help the researcher to identify scientific rules of spoken languages. Dialogic analysis tempts to analyze how do the contexts enter storytelling and help people understand how a story is reflecting a history and culture, which will help to construct narrative and meaning together (Riessman, 2008). The researchers would inevitably remove themselves from the real lived events and moving themselves into the participants' story in order to understand the feelings of the participants. The researcher aims to seek shared cultural narratives and develop themes to ensure the quality of qualitative research. Additionally, when analyzing data, the researcher should categorize the data, create a framework, explain findings, and explore ideas. Narrative research analysis involves

identifying the problem from cultural perspectives and norms of people in order to understand the factors that caused the conflict and injustice. Narrative method also allows the researcher to analyze a dialogue with Arab and Israeli people and examine the opposing ideas of the two groups.

When the researcher designs narrative questions, the researcher wants to uncover why do Arab settlers refuse to recognize the legitimacy of Israeli settlers? Or why do Israeli settlers refuse to recognize the legitimacy of Arab people to live with them in a community. Additionally, people who tend to be more empathic could be easier to identify with narratives. Also, the researcher must understand why do Israeli settlers in the West Bank insist that Israelis have a legitimate right to the neighborhood?

In conflict narratives, a conflict may be caused by internal or external factors. The narratives might differ depending on the people tell the story and how they tell the story. The researcher needs to be aware of whether the story is true or not. Israeli and Arab people's narratives towards conflicts might be different or the researcher might find similar views from the two groups for a particular question. This study will consider the food and water that people use and distinguish how the two groups gain the access to it. For example, do the people eat food and drink the water because it has meaning for them to survive or they eat or drink just because they want to survive.

Lived experiences would consist of the images, feelings, thoughts, desires of this person who participated in that part of life (Riessman, 2008). The researcher can ask narrative questions, such as what do you think caused your condition? How do you think the situation can be managed? Do you think the community needs any assistance and treatment to help? How do you perceive the consequences of not getting help? The researcher also needs to know what their consequences and what kind of symptoms these people have, how do they feel about their situation, and how do they perceive the influence about the Arab-Israeli conflict towards competing over natural resources. Additionally, the researcher wants to know the treatment experiences of the participants and how do they feel about the struggle of supporting their family?

The researcher should focus on storytellers in order to understand the voices of people. The narratives will help the researcher to explore how people experiencing the illness from the storyteller's point-of-view. Empathy of human beings can contribute to analyzing the story characters as well (Smith, Flowers, & Larkin, 2009).

Coding is one way of analyzing qualitative data. Like coding, thematic analysis is a strategic choice for this research design, which includes the primary questions, goals, conceptual framework. It just like coding, which requires comparable reflection on participant meanings and outcomes (Saldaña, 2009). Narrative research allows people to see how a person involved in a conflict related to health risks. It will allow people to understand how different cultures can influence health and risk behaviors, and narrative evidence can help the researcher distinguish between different cultures and values (Elliott, 2005). The researcher also wants to focus on analyzing the stages of personal health conditions and compare the disease process from each participant. The researcher will decide how to weave stories together and identify people's experiences within that culture.

Both phenomenology and narrative research methods allow the researcher to describe participants' stories. However, phenomenology research allows the researcher to discuss the meanings of themes of stories within a group. In phenomenology research, the researcher needs to explain the findings after investigating what the participants believe and how the experiences influenced their lives. Also, coding data is an important process in narrative analysis (Elliott, 2005). The researcher needs to explain findings and focus on the context meaning of the findings, as well as seek to learn the why or how of a phenomenon (Czarniawska, 2004).

Ethical Protection

Ethical protection needs to be considered when conducting the qualitative study (Beiser & Hyman, 1997). The researcher will need to identify the vulnerable groups in order to protect the disabled, children, and elderly, and people with mental or any other health problems (Rosenthal & Rosnow, 1984). The researcher has the responsibility to protect participants' privacy and their reputation (Rosenthal & Rosnow, 1984). Participants will be given information of the research project, such as the purpose of the research and the process of the qualitative interview. If the participants do not feel comfortable, they can withdraw from the interview any time. Most importantly, the research participants will be selected fairly and without personal bias and preferences.

Conclusion:-

This research outlines phenomenological research and narrative research methodologies to discuss the concepts. This researcher aims to provide a guideline for the researcher when conducting the research. The researcher provides how to gather and analyze the data. For example, phenomenology research aims to understand the meaning of the participants' lived experiences and provide a concept of a phenomenon. It is important to form a theoretical framework to help in conducting the analysis. Moreover, narrative research is self-motivated, and it can reveal discourses. Narrative research can be useful for community-based research if the researcher combines it with another methodology (Elliott, 2005). Narrative research can be incorporated with phenomenology research in order to find the social and cultural frameworks within a diverse population. The combination of both research methods will help the researcher gain insights and find alternate strategies in a meaning way and gain advantages from both methodologies.

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