

Simulation exercise

Simulation Exercise Title:

Selecting an Applied Research Method

Objectives

- To understand the principles and practices of designing applied research methods.
- To identify methods to ensure the validity and reliability of applied research designs.
- To formulate actionable recommendations based on anticipated research findings.

Background

In applied research, the utilization of mixed-methods study designs is very beneficial. This methodology facilitates the integration of diverse data sets and viewpoints, culminating in a more intricate comprehension of the study problem.

Data Provided

You are a vocational education teacher tasked with improving the employability skills of your students. You have noticed that many students struggle with essential skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and adaptability, which affects their job prospects. You decide to design a mixed-method research study to identify effective methods to enhance these skills and implement a training program in your institution.

Task

1. Define the research problem.
2. Outline the main objectives of the research.
3. Select one of the proposed applied research methods, analyze the research topic and objectives..
4. Outline strategies to ensure the validity and reliability of your research and fill in the table below:

How to make research valid	How to make research reliable

5. Analyze which method would work best in this applied research topic and why.

6. Think about what adjustments you would make to improve the research process
7. Based on your anticipated findings, list actionable recommendations to enhance employability skills training. For example:

Increase hands-on workshops to improve communication and teamwork.

Guidelines

- Carefully read the provided example of applied research in VET.
- Refer to information in Session 1 to correctly define validity and reliability.
- Ensure the research design is appropriate for the research questions.
- Recommended video “Mixed Methods Research Designs” to watch before task completion : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7YYA9qQjJA&t=1189s>

Deliverables

- A template on the validity and reliability of research.
- A selection of templates, created based on the development of the Mixed Method Research.
- A list of recommendations, based on the anticipated research finding.