GERO 550

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**Chapter 10 Abstract**

**Reference**

Curry, L., & Nunez-Smith, M. (2015). Definition and overview of mixed methods designs, *Mixed methods in health sciences research: A practical primer* (pp. 3-34). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

**Summary**

This chapter is divided into four sections to address major issues that arise in implementing a mixed methods study. It takes HRPP (Human Research Protection Program) as a background to give suggestions for preparing a strong mixed methods application, and introduce specific types of designs with their advantages, disadvantages and distinctions. Besides, it presents the implementation challenges and strategies as well, and offers relative advice.

**Main Points**

* Suggestions for communicating effectively when working with HRPPs on mixed methods studies.
* Specific mixed methods designs used in health sciences research: convergent, exploratory sequential, explanatory sequential designs, and emergent designs.
* Emergent designs pose particular challenges in the health sciences, including HRPP review, funding agency concerns, and project management.
* Prioritizing study components or findings, approaching data analysis as a team, and incorporating mixed methods expertise are key considerations in implementing mixed methods studies.

**Analysis**

**What are the results and/ or the conclusions?**

Considering that it is a theoretical chapter, the authors do not have any true results or conclusions. The chapter first defines what HRPP (Human Research Protection Program) is. Then, suggestions for preparing a strong mixed methods application for HRPP review. Next, key issues for specific mixed methods design types. Finally, the chapter presents the implementation challenges and gives relative advice.

**Does the author provide a persuasive argument?**

My answer to this question is definitely yes. First of all, at the beginning of this chapter, the authors address that this chapter is draw from their own experience. Besides, in the chapter, they also use a large amount of examples, citations, and samples to prove what they present. Moreover, they even apply what they suggest to the chapter directly to testify their argument as well.

**How does the chapter relate to the topics and themes addressed in this week’s classwork?**

For a successful program evaluation, it is important to not only choose the most suitable mixed methods design, but also form a mixed methods team with necessary expertise, have an effective communication and collaboration with team members.

**Did you like this chapter?**

I like this chapter with two reasons. First, I think that it applies what it suggests to us to this chapter. For example, in the section of “Communicate Clearly and Effectively”, the authors address that we have to “communicate clearly and effectively to a diverse audience… use methodological jargon only when necessary”, and in the following sections, when they give us advice or definition with words like jargon, they also use a simple question in parentheses as an explanation for us to understand more clearly and effectively. Second, the content of the whole chapter is helpful not only for future research applications, but also for other applications we may write down.

**What does this chapter add to your knowledge of aging and/or program evaluation?**

Although the previous chapters mentions qualitative and quantitative methods several times, it seems that it is the first time to distinguish three different types of designs. The three types of designs all include quantitative and qualitative methods components, there are still some distinction among them, that is to say, if we want to make a comprehensive application, what we need to do is more than combining qualitative and quantitative methods together, we have to analyze the key points and make a understanding of prioritizing components, then find the most suitable design.

**Please state your evaluation of the chapter and indicate what you think is its most salient contribution to your development as a program evaluator?**

I think that the chapter is a foundation stone for our evaluation for application no matter where we will submit. Moreover, I believe that the most salient contribution of this chapter is to emphasize the importance of human. It tells us that using mixed methods is a basic for a research and application. But rather than mixed methods, the importance of human, such as how to communicate clearly and effectively, how to form a strong research team, and how to collaborate with team members plays a vital role in the process of achieving a comprehensive research and satisfied result.