

Annex 3. Checklist to assess the quality of qualitative research⁵

Conceptual framing

- _____ The study has a clear overall approach that situates it within a research paradigm (interpretive/constructionist; critical; deconstructionist).
- _____ The goals for the qualitative study are clearly articulated, and these goals align with the research paradigm (e.g., if the goal is to understand participants' perceptions of a program, it is aligned with an interpretive/constructionist perspective and related methodologies).
- _____ The researchers have identified a question (or a set of questions) that can best be answered through qualitative research, and the ethics of asking (or not asking) the questions are considered.

Robustness of methodology

- _____ The researchers have selected a methodology that aligns with the overall paradigm and purpose and have provided justification as to why this methodology is well-suited to answer the research questions.
- _____ If the qualitative study is being used as part of a mixed-methods study, its goals and approach are considered and aligned with the other components of the mixed-methods study.
- _____ The researchers have considered how the methodology (and data) can be used to inform policy and practice.

Culturally appropriate tools and analysis

- _____ The selection of methods to collect data are aligned with the overall purpose and methodology, and cost, cultural appropriateness, and relevancy are discussed.
 - _____ Protocols for interviewing, observations, or participatory and arts-based methods are developed with consideration of the different respondent groups and the ethical guidelines of the countries involved in the research project.
 - _____ The project team should have contingency plans for alternative methods and participants if they face challenges in the field in carrying out their planned data collection.
 - _____ Time and budget are adequately considered for collecting data using the appropriate methods.
- In addition, the ethics of paying (or not paying) participants should be considered.

Credibility

- _____ The process for sampling has been identified and aligns with the overall purpose and methodology. Considerations of consent, confidentiality, and participation have been given to including children/youth participants, illiterate participants, or others who may be considered vulnerable populations.
- _____ There is a clear plan for piloting the protocols for data collection, including considerations of translation, if necessary, and revising protocols if used over multiple waves of data collection.
- _____ The researchers/team have considered who will collect data using different methods, including a plan to train local researchers and translators in the processes for doing qualitative research.

⁵ Source: DeJaeghere, J., Morrow, V., Richardson, D., Schowengerdt, B., Hinton, R., Muñoz Boudet, A. (2020). Guidance Note on Qualitative Research in Education: Considerations for Best Practice. London. Department for International Development, prepared for Building Evidence in Education (BE2): 75–76. <https://www.edu-links.org/sites/default/files/media/file/Guidance%20Note%20on%20Qualitative%20Research%20final%202020.pdf>

Reliability

_____ The project has a plan for data translation (if required), analysis, and storage, including a clear statement about who will have access to data and who will analyze it. The project should clearly state data ownership and uses and plans to share the data with participants.

Openness and transparency; cogency

_____ A data analysis plan has been created that aligns with the overall methodology and purpose of the research and the research team is adequately trained to analyze the data. Considerations for ensuring the quality of the analysis, and time and cost are clear in the data analysis plan.

_____ There is a clear plan for sharing the research findings with participants and other stakeholders

(national, international), and considerations are given to how the research can affect practice and policy in a timely manner.