



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY

Bethel.edu



Conducting Qualitative Research in the COVID-19 Era: Lessons from the Philippines

St. Paul, MN, USA

Safary Wa-Mbaleka

Background

The SAGE Handbook of
Qualitative Research in
the Asian Context

Edited by
Safary Wa-Mbaleka
and Arceli H. Rosario



AQRA CURRENT STATUS

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 2,948

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED: 44

INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED: 485

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY AQRA MEMBERS

Angola • Myanmar



7th AQRA
International
Conference on
Qualitative
Research

Theme:
**Qualitative
Research in
the Asian
Context**

1. Limited Expertise

- a. Few QLR experts
- b. Few QLR studies
- c. Limited training

(Wa-Mbaleka & Rosario, 2022)



3. Limited QLR in HEIs.

- a. Theses & dissertations
- b. Books
- c. Journals
- d. Research conferences

(Venkaya et al., 2022; Vhymeister et al., 2022; Wa-Mbaleka & Candelario-Aplaon, 2022)

2. Limited Resources

- a. Affordability
- b. Limited local publications
- c. Lack of passion for QLR

(Obo & Gomez, 2022)

1. Growing number of
trainers

Training the trainers

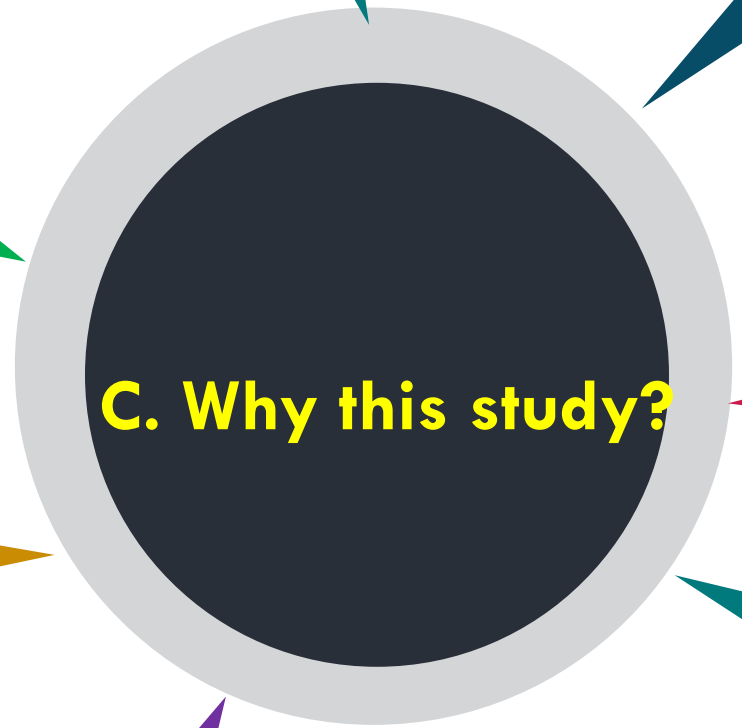
2. Trainings

- a. Conferences
- b. Workshops
- c. Webinars

B. Contribution of AQRA

3. Resources

- a. Journal publications
- b. SAGE handbook
- c. Expanding QLR network



1. Problem: COVID-19

2. Opportunity: New learning in QLR

3. Specifically: new methods of conducting QLR as a result of COVID-19

4. Purpose: synthesize QLR methods used in COVID-19 that can be used in the post-pandemic era.

RQ1: What methodological challenges did researchers face during the pandemic?

RQ2: What innovative methods did researchers use during the pandemic?

RQ3: What lessons can be learned for the future of QLR?

C. Why this study?

D. Methodology

1. Case study

2. Written interview & Book of abstracts

3. Convenient sampling @ the conference

Sample: 26

Conference: 44 abstracts

Included: 21

23 Excluded: 21 theoretical, 2 mixed-methods

1. Challenges

- a. Participant accessibility
- b. Procedural challenges
- c. Data collection challenges
- d. Trustworthiness
- e. Emotional health

2. Innovative strategies

- a. Technology-based data collection
- b. Technology-based data generation
- c. Technology tools



- a. Motivation to learn QLR software
- b. Increase in QLR due to acceptable smaller sample size
- c. Access to free QLR webinars

3. New opportunities

F. Lessons Learned for Future

1. New technology to be integrated in QLR teaching/training

2. Digital divide is a real issue to be considered in collaborative research.

7. Contextualization: needed everywhere

3. IRBs must be revised to address the new reality discovered during COVID-19

6. Needed: More exploration for big data

5. COVID-19 has generated a stronger need for QLR.

4. When working remotely, adapted procedures must be put in place for proposal approval

Concluding Thought

Digital divide:
Technology & internet

Mental health:
Addressing post-pandemic issues



Revision & training:
IRBs, proposals, QLR software & tools, QLR webinars

Creativity & innovation: using context-specific strategies



Conducting Qualitative Research in the COVID-19 Era: Lessons from the Philippines

BETHEL
UNIVERSITY

Bethel.edu



Group: AQRA-Asian Qualitative Research Association

St. Paul, MN, USA



Safary Wa-Mbaleka, EdD, PhD



Wa-Mbaleka@Bethel.edu

References

- Obo, E. R., & Gomez, M. (2022). Teaching qualitative research. In S. Wa-Mbaleka & A. H. Rosario (Eds.), *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research in the Asian context* (pp. 555-566). SAGE.
- Salmons, J. E. (2022). *Doing qualitative research online* (2nd ed.). SAGE.
- Venkaya, H. E., Ablaza, V. C., & Ablaza, G. G. C. (2022). A proposed model for writing and defending a qualitative research thesis or dissertation. In S. Wa-Mbaleka & A. H. Rosario (Eds.), *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research in the Asian context* (pp. 509-524). SAGE.
- Vyhmeister, S., Wa-Mbaleka, S., & Rosario, A. H. (2022). Becoming a qualitative researcher. In S. Wa-Mbaleka & A. H. Rosario (Eds.), *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research in the Asian context* (pp. 495-508). SAGE.
- Wa-Mbaleka, S., & Candelario-Aplaon. (2022). Preparing a qualitative research paper for publication. In S. Wa-Mbaleka & A. H. Rosario (Eds.), *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research in the Asian context* (pp. 525-539). SAGE.
- Wa-Mbaleka, S., & Rosario, A. H. (Eds.). (2022). *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research in the Asian context*. SAGE.