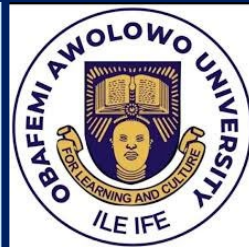


Review of a Qualitative Project



Adeleye ADEOMI

Outline

- Introduction
- Objective
- Flow chart for the Project
- Methodology
- Published Paper
- Summary of findings
- My “real” experiences
- Manuscript publication challenges
- Summary



Introduction

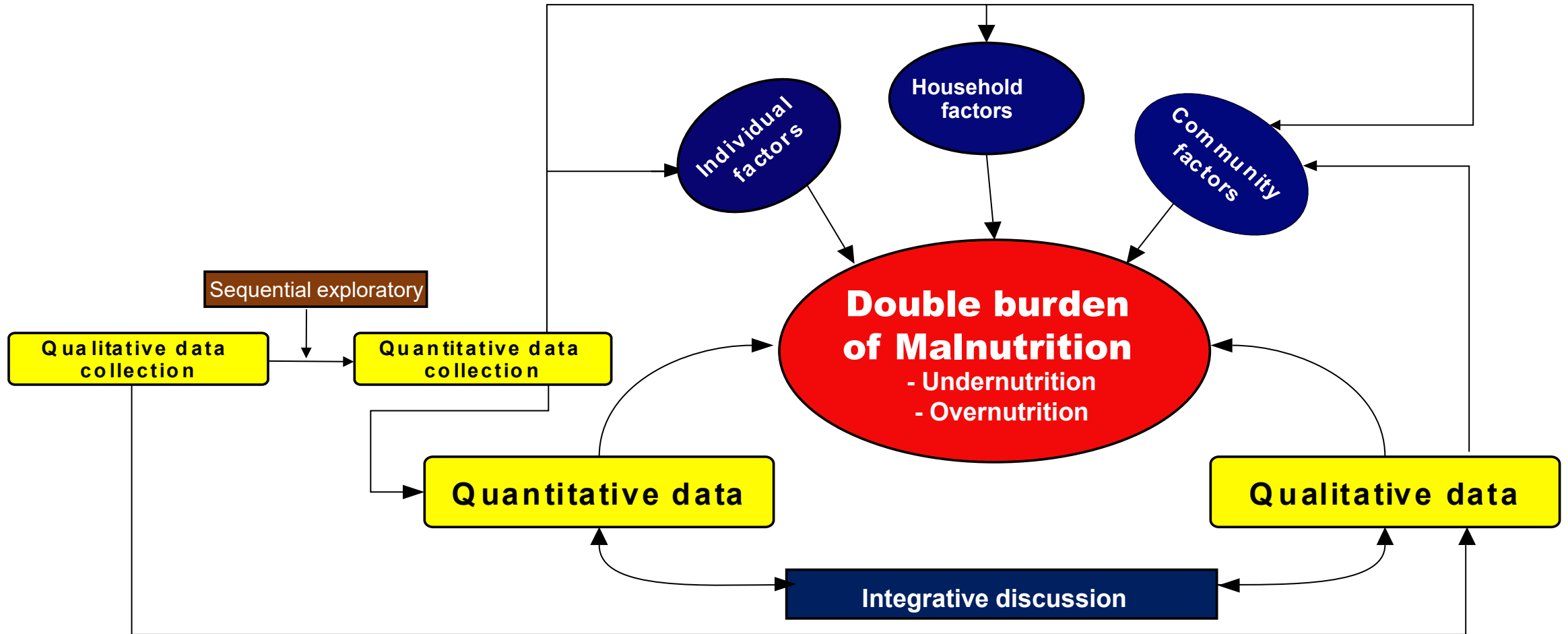
- Part of my Ph.D. project
- Titled “The double burden of under- and over-nutrition among school-aged children and adolescents in two Nigerian states”
- Not my first, not my last, but certainly my biggest so far
- Qualitative paper was published separately in BMJ Open with the title
- ‘Children eat all things here’: a qualitative study of mothers’ perceptions and cultural beliefs about underweight and overweight children and adolescents in selected communities in two Nigerian states (Adeomi et al, 2022)

Objective

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- To explore mothers' perceptions and cultural beliefs and practices relating to under- and over-weight children and adolescents in two Nigerian States

Flow-chart for the Project



Methodology

- Mixed methods – Sequential exploratory
 - Quali, then Quanti
- Participants were mothers of children 6 – 19 years
 - Purposively selected in 2 States, 8 communities
- 8 FGDs were held using a FGD guide
 - 4 each in rural & urban
 - 8 – 10 participants per FGD session
 - 76 participants in all
- Transcribed audio recordings & notes from FGD sessions
- Data were analyzed using Nvivo version 11
 - Initial broad codes, and later fine codes

Published Paper

Open access

Original research

BMJ Open 'Children eat all things here': a qualitative study of mothers' perceptions and cultural beliefs about underweight and overweight children and adolescents in selected communities in two Nigerian states

Adeleye Abiodun Adeomi ^{1,2} Adesegun Fatusi ^{1,3}
Kerstin Klipstein-Grobusch ^{2,4}

Summary of findings

- Mothers expressed different perceptions about the concept, causes & community experience of under- and over-weight children/adolescents
- Some gaps and misconceptions were observed in the mothers' perceptions
- Food taboos, food restrictions and other cultural beliefs or practices were not reported by majority of the mothers

My “real” Experiences – before data collection

- Challenge with community-based approach
 - Community entry, data collection
 - (DOI: 10.1186/s13104-024-07061-7)

- If you must do a community-based study, use communities where you have existing relationships, structures, or prior experience

- Gaps in my qualitative research plan
 - No/low budgeting for community entry, venue, refreshments, compensation for the discussants & transcription

- Important to do due diligence in planning & budgeting
- Keep the scope realistic and aligned with the available funding; avoid being overly ambitious

My “real” Experiences – during data collection

- Elements on the Research Instruments were too many

- Complex sessions with no refreshments for discussants

- Keep research instruments focused and concise to avoid overly long, tiring interviews

- Initial poor skill with moderating the FGDs

- Questions were open ended, but I was not
- Poor probing skills
- Poor skill with managing group dynamics

- Do not assume that you can handle qualitative interviews!
- Get training or get an expert

My “real” Experiences – after data collection

- Transcription was not as easy and/or cheap as I thought

- Make adequate budget for transcription
- Get trained & experienced experts for your transcription

- Analysis is heavily researcher-dependent
- Very unlike quantitative data analysis

- Ensure adequate training and experience in qualitative data analysis.
- Engage an experienced qualitative analyst if needed.
- Involve the analyst early in study and instrument design

Manuscript Publication challenges

- Finding the right journal
- Title
- Additional considerations not in quantitative manuscripts
- Guba's criteria for assessing trustworthiness
 - credibility, transferability, dependability, & confirmability.
- SRQR checklist
 - Standards for Reporting Qualitative Research
- Demographic data of discussants


SRQR checklist

Mothers' perceptions and adolescents: a

Open access

BMJ Open

Trustworthiness
 Trustworthiness is a crucial requirement for all qualitative studies and this was ensured in many ways in this study, and is here presented using Guba's criteria.^{24 25}

Credibility
 The FGDs used for this study were taken from eight randomly selected sites, with representation of the two

Transferability
 To ensure transferability, some background information about the study subject and context was given. Also, the details about the number of participants, how they were recruited and the data collection methods (FGD) were given. Additionally, the number and duration of the FGD sessions and other details about the FGD sessions were provided.

Adeleye Abiodun Adeomi ^{1,2} Adesegun Fatusi ^{1,3}
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Original research

'Children eat all things here': a qualitative study of mothers' perceptions and cultural beliefs about underweight and overweight children and adolescents in selected communities in two Nigerian states

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My “real” Experiences

- Not all negative
- It was gratifying to see that I could successfully pull it off!
 - From conception, to data collection, analysis & publication
 - It was my first qualitative project, which I led from conception through to publication
 - I was unsure of my ability to conduct the analysis and publish a purely qualitative study
- Started roughly, but later became really interesting
- It is not as difficult and/or complex as it seems
 - Similar to what we experience in our day-to-day lives.
 - Especially when we remain willing to learn and adapt along the way
- I believe any of us can do it too!

Summary

- Plan realistically & prepare adequately
 - Align the scope, budget, instruments and logistics with available resources.
 - Community entry, recruitment & transcription require time, skills & resources.
- Keep it focused
 - Use concise research instruments to avoid unnecessarily long & tiring discussions.
- Get the right expertise
 - Qualitative interviewing, transcription & analysis require appropriate training & experience.
- Plan for publication early
 - Consider qualitative reporting requirements, trustworthiness and journal expectations from the study design stage
- Qualitative research can be challenging, but ultimately a rewarding journey

Thank you