Critique research report #2

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GREV 721 55 & GREV 721P 55 Qualitative Research Method

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Upon reading and taking into regard the validity and reliability of both article, I find that *A Qualitative Study of Juvenile Offenders, Student Engagement, and Interpersonal Relationships* (Juvenile) established reliability and validity, while the article Assessing the need for curriculum or delivery revisions to the D.A.R.E. K-4 visitation (DARE) did not provide a strong case of reliability and/or validity.

According to Nahid Golafshani, “triangulation as used in quantitative research to test the reliability and validity can also illuminate some ways to test or maximize the validity and reliability of a qualitative study.” If a study can be accurately replicated a number of times, then it has high reliability. Validity centers on the content of the study. The instruments and techniques a researcher employs must ask the right questions efficiently and effectively.

An effective way to test for validity and reliability in a qualitative study is to use triangulation, which is a technique of using several data sources and “multiple perceptions” (Golafshani 603). This is not to be used as a cure-all solution, but a way to test the validity and reliability within a study.

**Sample Size**

The Juvenile study had a larger sample. It included participants from two different state juvenile justice centers for a total of 32 interviews. There was a small sample size with the study on DARE. Even though they used several classrooms across different grade levels, the information all came from the same school district. It would be interesting to see how other districts handle the DARE program. I also found it a bit interesting that the researchers had to bribe the teachers to boost participation. The juvenile researchers reimbursed their participants as well, but only after the interviews were conducted. There was a debate about the reimbursement; however, it was decided that the benefit of the study was low to the participants, so some payment was needed.

**Research Techniques**

There was a diverse team in the Juvenile study, (going back to the number of people on the paper) and the different researchers were used for a more reliable result. This technique insured that one researcher wasn’t writing their perspective into the study. This was also a use of triangulation within the study.

During the research, the Juvenile study used a better system to ensure validity of the information. They were keenly aware of how bias could negatively affect the report. They employed different coding categories, alternated the interviewers, had weekly team briefings with the other site and employed the use of outside reviewers. The staff at each facility was also asked to approve of the findings and the validity of the information.

The DARE study only used surveys and follow-up interviews to prove maximal variation. They did not switch out the interviewers, or provide different data collection techniques other than the initial interviews and follow-up surveys.

In conclusion, I realize that the scope of the Juvenile project was huge, and the amount of time and effort needed to complete the study was most likely not feasible for the researchers in the DARE study. However, we can see the crucial difference that using triangulation techniques can make on the outcomes of a study.