

Qualitative research in the context of healthcare training: interdisciplinary perspectives

In the quest to improve the care and training of health professionals, qualitative research plays a fundamental role in understanding the complexities that permeate health systems and in enhancing the quality of services rendered. By immersing ourselves in the terminology that abounds in this dynamic field, we can grasp the infinity of challenges and opportunities that impact the practice and training of health professionals.

In the context of the global post-pandemic of COVID-19, qualitative research has become an essential tool in the appreciation of the interaction between health professionals, individuals and the population in general¹. Expressions such as “Public Hospital”, “Nursing Team”, and “Collaborative Work Environment” highlight the importance of examining the experiences and perceptions of the health professionals who were on the front line during the pandemic and continue to work in the services after this period; as well as the people who receive such care, whether in a hospital, outpatient or even home environment.

From this perspective, the humanization of care emerges as a central theme, reflected in expressions such as “Humanized Childbirth” and combating “Obstetric Violence”. In different contexts and perspectives, qualitative research provides valuable insights into the emotional and psychological needs of mothers during childbirth and how healthcare professionals can promote a more positive and empowering experience.

Academic training and ongoing education play a crucial role in ensuring that we have professionals who are welcoming and qualified in caring for people at different stages of the life cycle. Terms such as “Active Methodologies” and “Problem-Based Learning” highlight the need for innovative approaches in the teaching of nursing and other health areas, which encourage critical reflection and problem-solving.

In the field of health care, qualitative research can assist in identifying effective strategies to meet the specific needs of vulnerable groups, such as premature newborns and their mothers, and dependent elderly people and their caregivers. The articles highlight that the strategies presented can be enhanced by the humanization of care and the use of technologies.

With qualitative research, we can give individuals and communities a voice, enabling them to participate in promoting their own health. Thus, Integrative and Complementary Practices in Primary Health Care (PICs) and playful care strategies reveal the creative and integrative potential of care, encompassing the broader overview of the human being.

In view of everything presented above, we cannot ignore the challenges faced in conducting qualitative research, given the need to ensure confidentiality and respect for the rights of the participants, as well as the complexity of analyzing subjective and contextual data². As we make progress in the field of qualitative health research, it is imperative that we continue to collaborate, innovate and reflect on our practices, because only by adopting a multidisciplinary and holistic approach can we address emerging challenges and promote more equitable and inclusive health for all³.

This editorial serves as an invitation to examine, question and challenge the frontiers of qualitative investigation in health, since it is thanks to this examination that we can truly transform and improve healthcare for future generations, putting different research experiences and results into play.

Ellen Synthia Fernandes de Oliveira (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0683-2620>)¹

Christina César Praça Brasil (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7741-5349>)²

Elza de Fátima Ribeiro Higa (<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5772-9597>)³

¹ Universidade Federal de Goiás. Goiânia GO Brasil.

² Universidade de Fortaleza. Fortaleza CE Brasil.

³ Faculdade de Medicina de Marília. Marília SP Brasil.

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