

MOD 5

1. Importance of a Study Protocol :

- Before designing a questionnaire, a study protocol must be written. This includes defining objectives, study questions, and components such as literature review and analysis plan.

- Example : If studying mammography screening uptake, one should include family history and women's attitudes towards breast cancer screening.

2. Questionnaire Structure :

- Divide the questionnaire into parts. For instance, a study on flu vaccine knowledge may include:

- Part 1: Demographic factors and medical history.
- Part 2: Questions related to the study objectives.
- Part 3: Uptake rate of the flu vaccine.
- Part 4: Concerns about the vaccine.

3. Pretesting and Pilot Testing :

- Pretesting : involves giving the questionnaire to colleagues or experts for feedback on clarity and relevance.

- Pilot Testing : is conducted with a representative sample from the study population to assess the questionnaire's effectiveness.

- Example : If a questionnaire takes longer than expected, adjustments may be needed based on feedback.

4. Drafting Questions :

- Questions should be clear, simple, and precise. Avoid ambiguous wording to prevent misunderstandings.

- Example : Instead of asking, "Do you think the flu vaccine is good for your health?" use a scale (e.g., strongly agree to strongly disagree) for more nuanced responses.

5. Avoiding Common Mistakes :

- Questions should not lead participants or combine multiple inquiries.
- **Example**: Instead of asking, "Have you had shoulder or back pain?" ask them separately for clarity.

6. Validity and Reliability :

- The questionnaire must yield consistent results (reliability) and accurately measure what it intends to (validity).
- Example : If assessing depression, the tool should correctly identify individuals experiencing depression.

7. Consideration of Target Audience :

- Tailor questions to the audience's understanding and cultural context.
- Example : Sensitive questions should be framed carefully to avoid discomfort.

Conclusion

The document emphasizes the importance of thorough preparation in research, from developing a study protocol to drafting effective questionnaires. It highlights the need for clear communication and understanding the target audience to ensure valid and reliable data collection.

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