

FEMINIST RESEARCH METHODS



Dr. Suganda Ramamoorthi
Associate Prof.
Lady Doak College

To know about

WHY WHAT AND HOW

about women's experience of living in a world where inequality
is the way of life.

Feminist research is carried out by men and women who identify as
feminists.

Different ways of seeing `the problem'
(and `the solution')

Gender is a primary category of experience.
therefore an category of analysis

Feminist Research is emerging from the viewpoint that
values women's experience, needs, and perception
of the social world.

Feminist Research

FR seeks to reveal and overcome androcentric biases in Research

It seeks to create social change.

It seeks to represent human diversity

It acknowledges the positionality of the researcher

It *begins* with the standpoints and experiences of women-
Women and Gender are not just variables...they are locators of culture, society,
and politics.

What makes feminist research uniquely different?

- It is the kinds of questions, methodologies, knowledge, and purpose brought to the research process.

Feminist research is a holistic endeavor

- from the theoretical to the practical,
- from the formulation of research questions
- write-up of research findings.

Feminist researchers emphasize the synergy and interlinkages between epistemology, methodology, and method depends on researcher's perspective

Defining principles of Feminist Research

It is characterized by its double dimension.

Its objectives include the construction of new knowledge and the production of social change.

FR is grounded in feminist values and beliefs and research must often be conducted within institutions that are still patriarchal.

It is interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, it uses different methodologies

Criteria for Feminist Research

is essentially value-driven

is 'driven' by the interests of the women

involves as many women as is desirable and feasible in the collaborative design and conduct of the research

involves maximum attention and benefits for the women involved

respects and values women's experiences

uses conceptual language which accurately names the phenomena

contextualises and substantiates various truth claims so that other women can make their own judgements

attempts to represent the richness, complexity, interconnectedness, and contextualised nature of women's experiences

contributes to women being able to identify new or better ways of understanding their situation

results in women being able to identify ways to change and improve their situation

The process of feminist research is characterized by four primary features:

- (1) expanding methodologies to include both quantitative and qualitative methods
- (2) connecting women for group-level data collection
- (3) reducing the hierarchical relationship between researchers and their participants
- (4) recognizing and reflecting upon the emotionality of women's lives

Techniques, Record-keeping and writing up

use a multiplicity of techniques to reflect the multidimensional nature of experiences

Feminist research generates its own logic regarding what, how and where.

Findings' may take the form of a video, a tapestry, a collage, an art-piece, cartoons or drama.

They may be transformed into a novel.

Findings may be contributed to a popular women's magazine or the usual refereed professional journal.

Tools and Techniques

Interview research, especially in depth, open ended interviews

Ethnography

Cross cultural, comparative research

Case studies

Focused Group Discussion

Action, community based, participatory research

Literature based research, content research

Life story, narrative research, autobiography and oral history, folklores
Storytelling, Songs etc.

Visual, audio, dramatic and multi-media research eg photo research

Historical research

Diaries and journals

THANK YOU

