Lecture 5: Qualitative Research Method

Qualitative research is studying of the nature to address the cause of the results/impacts. For example in case of climate changes, we can see from many evidences such as the changes of sea level, Global temperature rise, warming oceans, Shrinking ice sheets, Glacial retreat etc. The main cause of this impact is the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission from industrial sector. The main contributors are the developed countries. According to the climate change is global impacts affected on especially the agricultural sector such as in rural areas or cultivation areas. These translate the one who are not the main contributors get suffering. Then, who will take a responsibility to this impact? Natural scientists cannot deal with climate change without understanding of the societies, which are being talked about, the societies that are affected, and the societies where such policies will be implemented. The perspective needs to open to analysis in terms of human systems that generate GHG, the ways in which different groups perceive and understand climate change, its varying impacts on people around the world, and diverse societal mechanisms that drive adaptation and mitigation.

To answer such kind of this question we need qualitative research methods. The contribution of qualitative research is anthropology. Anthropology is a potential discipline, which helps to ask many such relevant questions. Starting with research problem, which is intellectual stimulus calling for response in the form of scientific inquiry. Following the research design is developing research hypotheses/propositions, concepts, operationalization of concepts on describing/interpreting a cultural or social group, ethnographic study is useful; interviews and observations are used. Where it is intended to develop an in depth analysis of single or multiple cases, multiple sources of data are used. Yet, descriptions, themes, assertions define analysis is included. Next is data collection can be in-depth interviews, participant observations, Focus group discussions, and sampling. The last step is data analysis, the process of initial coding, the researcher discovers the most significant initial codes that make most analytical sense. Focused codes are then used to sift through large data.

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