

Covid-19 The challenges and opportunities for qualitative articles

It is a well-known fact that the emergence of epidemics excessive in offering issues of all kinds from anthropological to philosophical meanings, however for scientists, it is urgent to seek more precise determinants from the historical-geographical origins to social and biological ones, specifically to the epidemiological aspects. By identifying, understanding and coping with the phenomenon it becomes even more evident as the emergence and development of new Technologies specially in the medical field.

There was the emergence of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the early 1980's, and subsequently the Ebola and the epidemic on *Corona* virus and its mutations, such as *H1N1* and *SARS*; more recently we are able total about the epidemiological events of a lesser extent, which happened in Brazil, the arboviruses.

Of all these moments, it exploded from the beginning a great number of researches that ought to determine not only the biological and epidemiological mechanisms but the clinical features, in which led patients and their family members to over crowd care centers specialized in the field. It is clear that these epidemics also represent issues to be faced by the governments, and further more, no one can forget these family members and people's emotional suffering.

At the current moment, with the occurrence of *Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2)* pandemic, it is not at all different, and by what it seems, according to the enormous scale of the problem, the efforts that scientists' are putting towards their understanding has been increasingly urgent and of great magnitude. In most diverse countries, the scientific communities are extremely active and eager to achieve adequate knowledge for this issue. Already at this point, there are thousands of articles published in the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI-Pubmed) as can be seen and many others are published in Elsevier as well.

It is recognized that most of these articles are released in pre-print, therefore, not always evaluated conclusively by the *peer review* system. In the urgency of the moment, this scientific production is of extreme importance because it will contribute to overcome this issue. These papers are mostly based on quantitative analysis, fundamental approach in verifying the extent and biological and epidemiological depth of this issue, not only in the current moment but also in the future.

However, in spite of these approaches, it is an opportune moment to observe the aspects specifically connected to people's feeling, not just those affected by the disease, but also their family members and, those who are going through this at the moment. How can we analyze these feelings? It is clear that a great number of quantitative researches on the psychological aspect will be carried out, but it is noteworthy to remember that scientific work on the so-called qualitative analyzes will also be very interesting because it will allow us to apprehend the specific methodology in these people's most precious and fundamental aspects – the form in which their anxieties and fears were present, as well as their own expectations about the situation.

Fortunately, now there are many high impact scientific journals publishing qualitative articles, such as:

- Psychology Health & Medicine ¹
- BMC Medical Research Methodology ²

Thus, there will also be the opportunity to carry out researches on qualitative approach and analysis on specific methods and consequently, to be published in appropriate journals.



This will be another way to prepare ourselves even better to face the challenges, not only this epidemic, as well as others. Unfortunately, we will not be able to know, in advance, what are the new mutations of this virus and of others.

However, it is important to understand at this moment, what people think, feel and have to say, in their own words.

References

1. Magin P, Heading G, Adams J, Pond D. Sex and the skin: a qualitative study of patients with acne, psoriasis and atopic eczema. *Psychol Health Med.* 2010; 15 (4): 454-62.
2. Tøye F, Seers K, Allcock N, Briggs M, Carr E, Andrews J, Barker K. Trying to pin down jelly - exploring intuitive processes in quality assessment for meta-ethnography. *BMC Med Res Methodol.* 2013; 46.

José Eulálio Cabral Filho ¹

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9121-9910>

¹ Editor-in-Chief of the Brazilian Journal of Mother and Child Health.