# SES's L.S. RAHEJA COLLEGE OF ARTS and COMMERCE (AUTONOMOUS)

**BOARD OF STUDIES: Psychology**
**PROGRAMME: MA Psychology (with Counselling Specialization)**
**SEMESTER: II**
**NOMENCLATURE OF THE COURSE: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH TECHNIQUES**
**NEP Vertical: MAJOR**
**Credit: 4**

(As Per Choice Based Credit System (under NEP 2020) with effect from the academic year 2025-26)

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| **Programme:** | **MA Psychology (with Counselling Specialization)** |
| **Nomenclature of the Course** | **Qualitative Research Techniques** |
| **Course Code** | **PGMACOIIMJ326** |
| **Total Marks** | **100** |
| **Semester:** | **II** |
| **Academic year** | **2026-27** |

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** This paper aims to develop an in-depth understanding of qualitative research approaches, including philosophical foundations, research designs, and data analysis methods. It also aims to enhance students' ability to critically analyse, design, and conduct qualitative research with ethical and reflexive awareness.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:**

1. Analyse the philosophical foundations and paradigms of qualitative research to critically examine its nature and methodological approaches. Evaluate the role of the researcher, reflexivity, and ethical considerations in qualitative inquiry.
2. Analyse and apply various qualitative research designs and sampling strategies to formulate meaningful research questions. Critically evaluate issues of trustworthiness and methodological rigor in qualitative research.
3. Analyse and apply diverse qualitative data collection methods, including interviews, observations, and document analysis, in research contexts. Evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of different methods for capturing rich and contextual data.
4. Analyse and evaluate qualitative data analysis techniques, including coding and thematic analysis, to interpret and construct meaning from data. Formulate coherent and rigorous qualitative research reports and dissertations.

| Unit | Course Content | Andragogy | No of Lectures |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Module I** | **1. Foundations of Qualitative Research**<br>1.1 Nature and Philosophy of Qualitative Inquiry<br>1.2 Positivist vs. interpretivist paradigms<br>1.3 Role of the researcher and reflexivity<br>1.4 Qualitative vs. quantitative research: complementarities<br>1.5 Ethics in qualitative research | Interactive lectures, PowerPoint presentations, Data analysis exercises, Case studies Experiential learning through field-based tasks | **15** |
| **Module II** | **2. Qualitative Research Designs and Sampling**<br>2.1 Case study, phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, narrative research<br>2.2 Formulation of qualitative research questions<br>2.3 Purposive, theoretical, and snowball sampling<br>2.4 Gaining access and building rapport | Interactive lectures, PowerPoint presentations, Data analysis exercises, Case studies Experiential learning through | **15** |

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| | 2.5 Trustworthiness: credibility, transferability, dependability, confirmability | field-based tasks | |
| **Module III** | **3. Data Collection Methods**<br>3.1 In-depth interviews (structured, semi-structured, unstructured)<br>3.2 Focus group discussions<br>3.3 Observation and field notes<br>3.4 Use of documents and visual data<br>3.5 Recording, transcription, and data management | Interactive lectures, PowerPoint presentations, Data analysis exercises, Case studies Experiential learning through field-based tasks | **15** |
| **Module IV** | **4. Data Analysis**<br>4.1 Coding: open, axial, and selective coding<br>4.2 Thematic analysis and content analysis<br>4.3 Interpretation and meaning making<br>4.4 Writing qualitative research reports and dissertations | Interactive lectures, PowerPoint presentations, Data analysis exercises, Case studies Experiential learning through field-based tasks | **15** |

**SUGGESTED READINGS**


1. Bandlamudi, L. (2015). Difference, dialogue, and development: A Bakhtinian world. Routledge.
2. Bernard, H. R. (2002). Research methods in anthropology: Qualitative and quantitative approaches (3rd ed.). AltaMira Press.
3. Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2013). Successful qualitative research: A practical guide for beginners. Sage Publications.
4. Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2021). Thematic analysis: A practical guide. Sage Publications.
5. Camic, P. M., Rhodes, J. E., & Yardley, L. (Eds.). (2008). Qualitative research in psychology: Expanding perspectives in methodology and design. American Psychological Association.
6. Corbin, J., & Strauss, A. (2015). Basics of qualitative research: Techniques and procedures for developing grounded theory (4th ed.). Sage Publications.
7. Creswell, J. W. (2007). Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches (2nd ed.). Sage Publications.
8. Creswell, J. W. (2009). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches (3rd ed.). Sage Publications.
9. Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2018). Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches (4th ed.). Sage Publications.
10. Fisher, C. T. (2006). Qualitative research methods for psychologists: Introduction to empirical studies. Academic Press.
11. Flick, U. (2017). An introduction to qualitative research (5th ed.). Sage Publications.
12. Flick, U. (2018). The Sage handbook of qualitative data collection. Sage Publications.

13. Gilligan, C., Spencer, R., Weinberg, M. K., & Bertsch, T. (2003). On the listening guide: A voice-centered relational method. In P. M. Camic, J. E. Rhodes, & L. Yardley (Eds.), Qualitative research in psychology: Expanding perspectives in methodology and design (pp. 157–172). American Psychological Association.
14. Hancock, B., Windridge, K., & Ockleford, E. (2009). An introduction to qualitative research. NIHR RDS EM/YM.
15. Howitt, D. (2016). Introduction to qualitative methods in psychology (3rd ed.). Pearson Education.
16. Howitt, D. (2019). Introduction to qualitative research methods in psychology (4th ed.). Pearson.
17. Lacey, A., & Luff, D. (2009). Qualitative research analysis. NIHR RDS EM/YM.
18. Marshall, C., & Rossman, G. B. (2006). Planning time and resources in qualitative research. In Designing qualitative research (4th ed., pp. 177–197). Sage Publications.
19. Patton, M. Q. (2015). Qualitative research & evaluation methods (4th ed.). Sage Publications.
20. Saldaña, J. (2021). The coding manual for qualitative researchers (4th ed.). Sage Publications.

## QUESTION PAPER PATTERN

**(A) FOR CONTINUOUS EVALUATION**

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| **20 Marks Class Test** | (MCQ/QUIZ) ---------- 20 MARKS |

**(A-1)**

**(A-1) RUBRICS FOR CONTINUOUS EVALUATION**

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| **20 Marks** | ASSIGNMENT ---------- 10 MARKS |
| | VIVA-VOCE ---------- 10 MARKS |

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**(B) QUESTION PAPER PATTERN FOR SEMESTER END EXAMINATION**

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| **60 Marks** | Q1. Answer in brief (1/2)-------- 15 marks |
| | Q2. Answer in brief (1/2)-------- 15 marks |
| | Q3. Answer in brief (1/2)-------- 15 marks |
| | Q4. Answer in brief (1/2)-------- 15 marks |