



TRANSDISCIPLINARY CENTRE FOR QUALITATIVE METHODS

Public Health Evidence South Asia, Manipal University

Manipal, Udupi, India



CALL FOR SMALL GRANTS PROPOSAL 2017

The Transdisciplinary Centre for Qualitative Methods (TCQM) under Public Health Evidence South Asia (PHESA), is a joint initiative between Manipal University and the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. It aims to educate, facilitate and promote transdisciplinary qualitative research for the comprehensive understanding of issues pertaining to the public health. TCQM shall provide an essential platform for researchers to share expertise, collaborate, network and build new projects. This call for small grants 2017 is to support and nurture new ideas and approaches in qualitative methods.

Qualitative research is primarily exploratory and is used to gain an understanding of underlying reasons, opinions, motivations etc. This provides insight into the problem or helps developing ideas or hypothesis for potential qualitative research. It has also been defined as a broad term covering an array of interpretative techniques which seek to describe, decode, translate and otherwise, come to terms with meaning not for the frequency of certain more or less naturally occurring phenomena in the study area.

Qualitative research uses techniques such as focus group discussion, in-depth interviews, and direct observation so researchers can investigate participants' attitudes, beliefs, and preferences – the how and why of decision-making? Qualitative research methods provide an opportunity for a systematic, in-depth evaluation of a question that may not be easily answered through quantitative methods. Furthermore, these methods can add to quantitative results through explanations and clarifications with the target population.

There has been increasing interest and accomplishments in qualitative research in the health field. There is a thus greater demand by researchers in academia and in industry. In the last decade, qualitative research has become well accepted by medical journals. The quality of health care is one of the areas where qualitative methods can be used. The concept of quality of health care is multidimensional and multifaceted and some of the questions asked related to the quality of care or services may not be answered by mere quantitative methods. Qualitative research offers a variety of methods to be used for identifying what is really important to both patients and practitioners. It can also be used to identify and detect obstacles to change and for reasoning as the same. Qualitative work can help in identifying cultural and social factors that affect health care positively or negatively. Such information can be helpful in improving service delivery.

Funding Availability:

We aim to give 5 grants. The total grant money per project will not exceed 70000 Rupees. Duration of the project is maximum 12 months. The grants are intended for primary investigators to conduct the research themselves. It is not allowed to hire people to conduct the research. Fieldwork assistance can be considered. It is expected that PI will be involved in the whole research process (conceptualization, data collection, data analysis and reporting). If we do not receive good quality proposal then we will re-advertise the call for proposals.

➤ **Eligibility for Apply:**

- ❖ All faculty members of the Manipal University, Manipal and UGC recognised Universities in India are eligible to apply.
- ❖ Temporary staff, full-time doctoral students cannot be a Principal Investigators.
- ❖ Focus of the study should be on '*Health and Health related issues*'.
- ❖ Applicant must show proof of sufficient research experience.

➤ **Assessment and Selection Criteria:**

- ❖ Relevance and originality (Uniqueness) of the research question(s).
- ❖ Public health significance.
- ❖ Innovative use of the proposed methods.
- ❖ Ethical considerations.
- ❖ Potential for publication.
- ❖ Quality and feasibility of the proposal.
- ❖ Dissemination.

➤ **Output expected:**

- ❖ Data collected for the project should be submitted to the TCQM Data Archive.
- ❖ An article in ISI/ Scopus rated journal. Mentoring will be provided for the analysis and writing of the paper.

➤ **Time and Process**

All applications must be submitted to TCQM through Email (tcqmmanipal@gmail.com) by 1st March 2017.

For the sake of transparency and accountability, all the completed applications will be assessed based on the above criteria by a group of four experts from the center. There should not be Conflict of Interest with regards to external sources. The Principle Investigators requested to submit report at every milestone, that includes;

1. Refining of the proposal.
2. Submission of methods and data collection.
3. Plan for fieldwork.
4. Preliminary data and impressions.
5. Analysis report.
6. Article(s) to be published.

➤ **Application Requirements:**

Applications should be no longer than 5 pages and include administrative information (indicate whether institutional or individual application, past experience, and qualifications); Research summary, to include: Study rationale, including a clearly stated research question

Study design and methods. Evidence of any necessary IRB or ethics committee approvals (attached approvals do not count towards 5-page limit) see here for minimal requirements
Detailed budget. Cite references (references/citations do not count towards the 5-page limit)

Transdisciplinary Centre for Qualitative Methods (TCQM) considers Plagiarism Seriously
Proposals showing evidence of plagiarism will be disqualified from consideration. For definitions and help avoiding plagiarism, visit <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism/>.

Any questions regarding the call (Project) should be addressed to:

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Coordination Team of TCQM

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