

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter explained the methods that will be used by the researcher to complete this study. Each method in this section was explained in details which consist of research design, scope of the study, population and sampling, interview protocol, data collection and data analysis. The researcher used qualitative method by using the interview protocol entitle Interview about Understanding the First 5 Years of Fatherhood Among Professional Group of Young Fathers. Overall, for this chapter provides a detailed overview on how this study was conducted in terms of collecting the data and producing valid and reliable results.

3.2 Research Design

Based on Creswell (2012), research design is defined as the procedures for collecting, analysing and reporting research in qualitative research. The use of a qualitative research design is more appropriate to ensure that the objectives of this study are met. The researcher chose a qualitative research design to get an in-depth insight about the research topic. The reasons the researcher chose a qualitative research is that according to Jasmi (2012), the qualitative approach emphasized the descriptions of human nature and circumstances using a common view of a social action.

Qualitative research is a process of naturalistic inquiry that seeks in-depth understanding of social phenomena within their natural setting. It focuses on the "why" rather than the "what" of social phenomena and relies on the direct experiences of

human beings as meaning-making agents in their everyday lives. Rather than by logical and statistical procedures, qualitative researchers use multiple systems of inquiry for the study of human phenomena including biography, case study, historical analysis, discourse analysis, ethnography, grounded theory and phenomenology. The researcher applied the phenomenological method instead of the other qualitative methods since the aim and the research questions of this study is exploratory.

Phenomenology is used to identify phenomena and focus on subjective experiences and understanding the structure of those lived experiences. Although there are many methods of inquiry in qualitative research, the common assumptions are that knowledge is subjective rather than objective and that the researcher learns from the participants in order to understand the meaning of their lives. Phenomenology is used to identify phenomena and focus on subjective experiences and understanding the structure of those lived experiences. Besides, it is also used to describe in a depth way the common characteristics of the phenomena that has occurred (Statistic Solutions, 2019). Thus, the researcher used in-depth interviews as the method to collect data from participants in the study.

3.3 Scope of Study

The scope of this study is focused on the young fathers that experienced for the first 5 years of fatherhood period among the professional group. This research will be conducted in Selangor, Malaysia but the interviewed which is the participants from the different places. The interviewed conducted through online medium. The reason why the researcher chose to focus the study on young fathers is because the study is about the young fathers who have direct experience during the first 5 years of fatherhood period among the professional group.

3.4 Population and Sampling

Population is a group of individuals having one characteristic that distinguishes them from other groups. The population of this study is the young fathers in Malaysia. Sample is the group of participants in a study selected by the researcher from the target population. The interviewees are selected from the young fathers that experience the first 5 years of fatherhood period among the professional group. The age for the interviewees is around 26-28 years old, come from the professional group like teacher, lecturer, engineer, accountant or others. A total of three interviewees were selected until saturation point achieved.

In this study, the researcher used a purposive sampling method to select the research participants. Sargeant (2012) stated that subject selection in qualitative study is purposeful. Participants who are selected can best inform the research questions and enhance understanding of the phenomenon under study. Hence, one of the most important tasks in the study design phase is to identify the appropriate participants. The participants were selected using selection criteria in which potential participants must meet the requirements before being selected for the study. Therefore, to achieve the objectives of the research, the researcher ensured that all recruited participants have met the following selection criteria in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Criteria of Participants

Type of participant	Criteria
Young Father	i. Has experience the first five years of fatherhood period. ii. Background of professional group.

The participants of this study were three of the young fathers. All of the participants for this research that were approached by the researcher agreed to voluntarily participate in the study.

3.5 Interview Protocol

The interview protocol is a set of interview questions that the researcher asked during the interview session. Jacob & Furgerson (2012) asserted that the interview protocol is more than a list of interview questions. It refers to the procedural level of interviewing and includes a script of what the researcher will say before the interview. The conclusion of the interview, prompts for the interview to collect informed consent and to remind the researcher on the information that the researcher is interested in collecting. The interview protocol is a procedural guide for directing a researcher through the interview process. The importance of this interview protocol is to ensure that the researcher has asked the necessary questions, to ensure that the data obtained are sufficient to answer the research questions.

Hence, the researcher drafted the interview protocol for this study. The interview question drafted questions based on the research objectives and questions. In the beginning of interview, the researcher asked the participants to elaborate on their background information to create rapport between the researcher and the participant. Questions included the experience of the first five year of fatherhood among the professional group of young fathers.

After that, the draft questions were extensively discussed with the research supervisor who was the main source of reference for the researcher in conducting this study for approval. Once the supervisor has approved, the researcher started the data

collection process. A sample of the interview protocol used for data collections is shown in Appendix.

3.6 Interview Procedures

The researcher chose the interview method to collect qualitative data. According to Alshenqeeti (2014), interviews and questionnaires are frequently used by researchers in order to collect qualitative data. This is because interviews are more powerful in eliciting narrative data that allows researchers to investigate people's views in greater depth compared to questionnaires.

Castillo-Montoyo (2016) indicated that interviews provided researchers with rich and detailed qualitative data for understanding participants' experiences, how they describe those experiences and the meaning they make of those experiences. There are four types of interviews that are most often employed in the social sciences which are structured interview, open-ended (unstructured) interview, semi-structured interview and focus group interviewing. For the purpose of the present research, the researcher opted for the semi-structured interview method as it would allow the covering of various issues concerning the study (Rubin & Rubin, 2012).

The semi-structured interview is a more flexible version of the structured interview. It is because it allows depth to be achieved by providing an opportunity on the part of the interviewer to probe and expand the interviewee's responses (Rubin & Rubin, 2005). As the researcher had decided to use the interview method, an interview protocol had to be developed before conducting the interview. The interview protocol serves as a guide for researchers in the process of conducting interviews with participants and ensuring that the interviews are based on the research objectives. The

researcher conducted the interview with three participants at different times and dates depending on the participant's availability.

Before the interviewing session started, the researcher stated that the data findings were only to be used for the purpose of this research. The researcher also asked the permission from the participants from the participants to record the interview session for the purposes of reporting and data analysis. The formal interview sessions were conducted within one hour to one hour and 30 minutes but the actual length depended on the explanation of participants. The interview sessions were conducted in *Bahasa Melayu* in order to get clear information from the participants.

3.7 Data Collection

The data were collected by using in-depth interview. Three young fathers in Malaysia were involve in the process of data collection until saturation point achieved. During the process of the interviewing, there is a procedure that need to be follow. First, the interviewees were given information about the general nature of the study and the participant asked to sign a consent from before interviews started. Special attention was given to the fact that the study was completely confidential and the participant could stop at any time without negative consequences. Second, the interviews took place in a quiet area. The interviewer asked permission for audio recording. Lastly, if the interviewees are clear with the instruction given, then the interview will be conducted. The questions that will be asked are semi-structure and flexible.

3.8 Data Analysis

The data were analysed using Thematic Analysis. Thematic analysis is the analysis of textual material (transcript) manually and after analyse, written it through

descriptive report. According to the Braun and Clarke (2006) mentioned there are Six aspects of Thematic Analysis which are, familiarisation with the data, initial coding generation, searching for themes based on initial coding, review of the themes, theme definition and labelling and lastly, report writing. The potential themes are course the challenges during the young fathers experience the first 5 years of fatherhood period.

3.9 Conclusion

This chapter discussed the methodology used by the researcher in completing this study. It includes research design, scope of study, population and sampling, interview protocol, data collection and data analysis through this study. The findings will be described in detail later.

