Case Studies

# Chapter 5: Qualitative methodologies: An overview

The students have been asked to discuss their views of qualitative research. They remind themselves of the principles and key characteristics of qualitative research (see Table 5.1) and the examples of qualitative research methods identified in chapter five of the book.

Yoshi and Gloria feel comfortable with qualitative approaches to research. Yoshi likes the flexible and evolving approach and feels this responsiveness is particularly suited to research involving human participants. Gloria likes the fact that the qualitative approach provides insight into the experiences and beliefs of participants in a way that she feels quantitative research cannot.

Consider the following questions, you may wish to refer to in chapter five.

* What do you think are the advantages and benefits associated with qualitative research?
* Which characteristics of qualitative research do you think are particularly important and why?
* What do you think are the drawbacks or disadvantages associated with qualitative research and why might these be problematic?
* How do Yoshi and Gloria’s opinions about qualitative research compare with your thoughts and feelings about and your experiences of this approach to research?
* Write a short summary that explains your opinion of qualitative research. In doing this refer to the points raised in the previous questions. Try also to relate this explanation to the research that you have seen being undertaken in clinical practice, the research that you have seen being used to underpin clinical practice and the research papers that you have read
* Read the short summary that you wrote for online activity 4.8, overall which approach (qualitative or quantitative) do you feel most aligned to and why?