

Analyzing qualitative data

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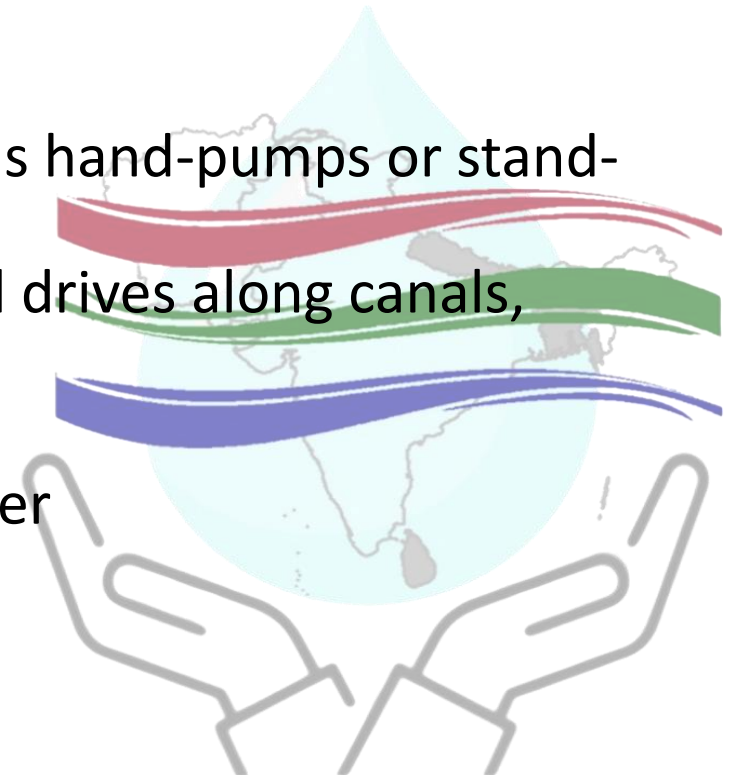
Overview of today's session

- What constitutes qualitative data ?
- The epistemological foundations
 - Interpretivism
- How analyzing qualitative data becomes relevant
 - The case study method
 - Analytic generalization
 - Grounded theory
- Hands-on exercise on analyzing qualitative data



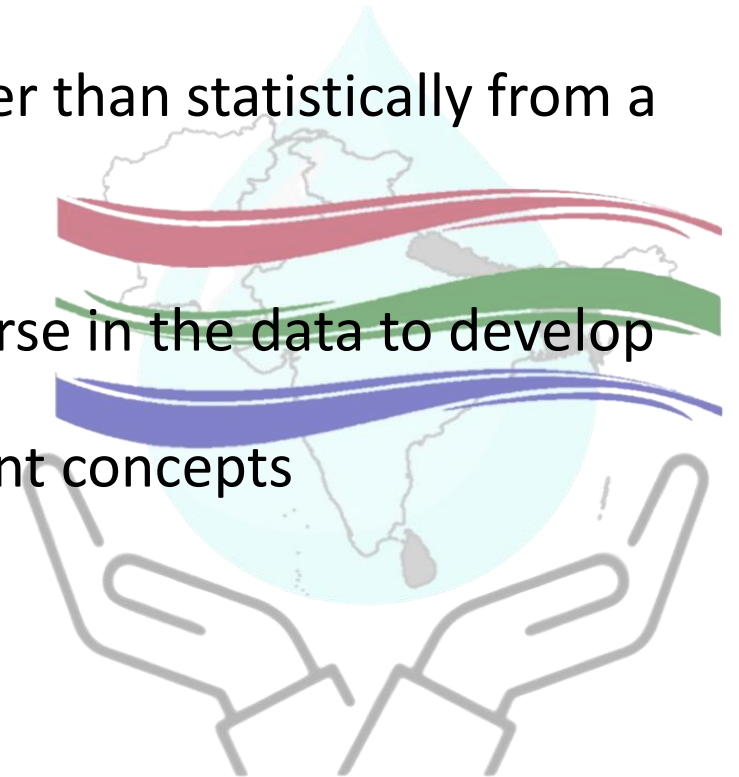
What constitutes qualitative data

- Texts of semi-structured interviews
- Texts of key informant interviews
- Photos in the field
- Transcribed observations of events
 - Observations around water collection points such as hand-pumps or stand-posts
 - Observations around water sources: e.g. walks and drives along canals, activities around ponds, lakes and tanks
 - Proceedings of the meeting of a WUA
 - Personal anecdotes and experiences related to water
 - Accounts of socialization experiences



How qualitative data becomes relevant

- The case study method (Yin, 1984)
 - Investigate a real life phenomenon using multiple sources of data by immersing in the data and the context
- Analytic generalization
 - Generalize from the case at a theoretical level rather than statistically from a sample to a population
- Grounded theory
 - An empirico-inductive approach in which we immerse in the data to develop theory
 - This is done by drawing relationships across different concepts
 - E.g. gender and water security



Photos in the field tell a story: investigate what you see, what arises curiosity



Photos in the field tell a story



Using photos to tell a comparative story

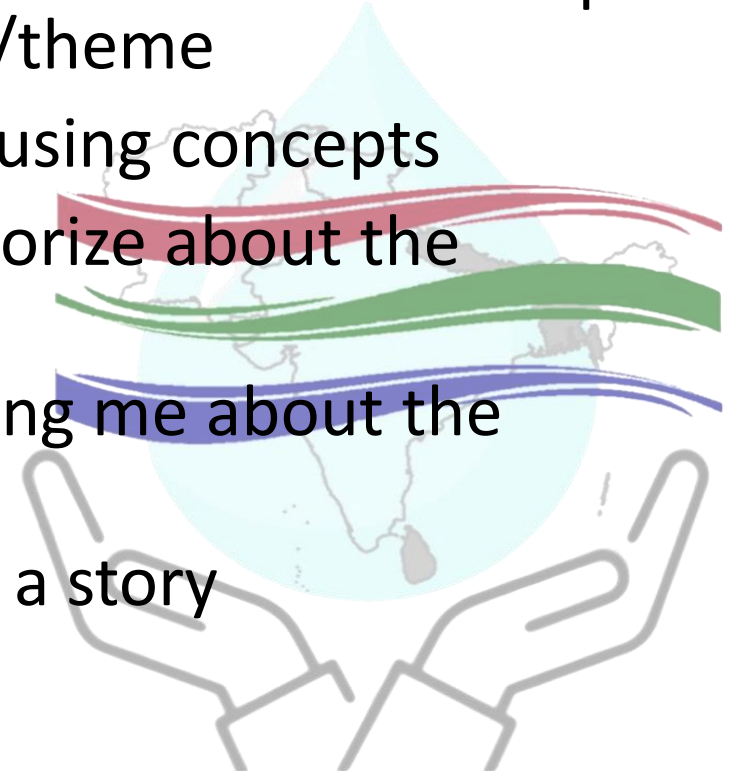


Observations as data, cues to follow up on



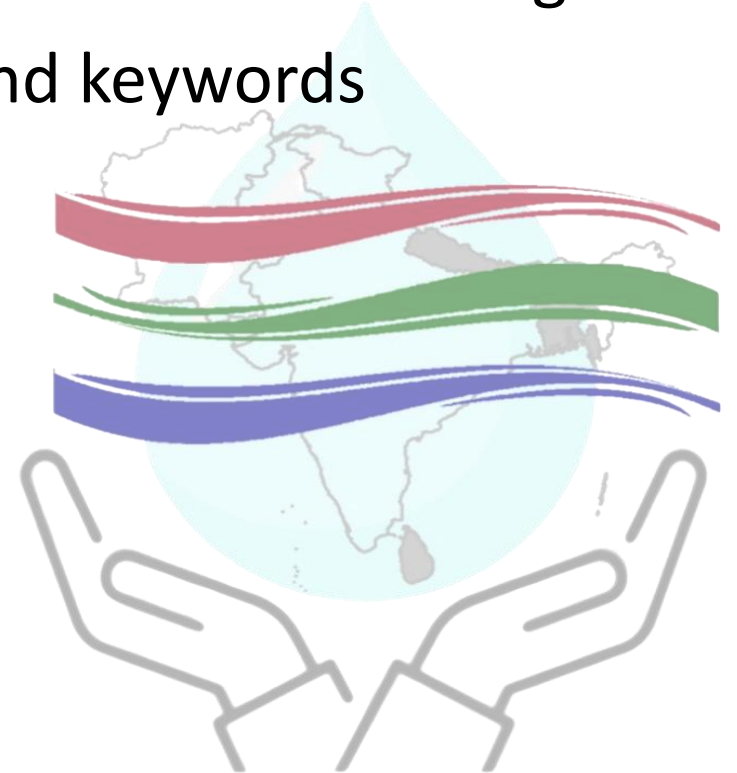
Steps in analyzing qualitative data

- Take rich field notes
- Classify the data according to keywords and concepts
- These keywords serve as organising principles for the data and help in synthesizing the insights relevant to each topic/theme
- As a second order classification, code the data using concepts
- Draw a relationship among the concepts to theorize about the situation
- Ask yourself at each stage what is this data telling me about the situation ?
- Put together pieces of the jig-saw puzzle to tell a story



How do you choose keywords and concepts

- Look at the relevance of the data that you have in relation to your academic interests or research questions
- What does this data tell us about what I am interested in knowing
- If you use a word file, you can move texts around keywords
- Integrating texts can help you write memos
- Memos can feed into thesis chapters



Turn to the hand-out shared with you

- What does this note tell you about how qualitative data is collected and stored ?
- How is it different from treating quantitative data ?
- What are the three most important things to keep in mind?
- Exercise
- Take about 20 minutes to classify the data into five or six major key words
- Now, group the keywords into three important themes or concepts
- Tie in these concepts to weave a narrative about what is happening in this village

