PRAGMATIC RESEARCH

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- What is pragmatism
- What is pragmatic research
- Types of pragmatic research
- Approaches to pragmatic research
- Case Study
What is pragmatism Definition

- **Pragmatism** is a school of thought that believes the function of thought is tool for prediction, action, and problem solving and not to describe, represent, or mirror reality.

- Pragmatism: interplay between knowledge and action to cause change.

- Appropriate for research approaches because it allows room for innovations and interventions.
What is pragmatism II

- It simply means practicality

- For the pragmatist, an ideology or proposition is true if it works satisfactorily.

- Pragmatism is guided by experiences.

- Ideas that are not out of place

- Ideas that are relevant to time and place

- Methods that work
Pragmatic Research

- Pragmatic research involves using the method which appears most suitable for the type of research to be conducted.

- Practicality against philosophy, eg simple random sampling against snowballing.

- Freedom to use any of the methods, techniques usually used for quantitative or qualitative research.
Pragmatic Research

- Use different techniques at the same time.
- Eg. for commercial sex workers? face-to-face interviews or individual interviews behind a screen or a focus group discussion.
- Findings there after can be used to construct a questionnaire to measure attitudes in a large scale sample with the aim of carrying out statistical analysis.
Types of pragmatic research

- Functional pragmatism
- Referential pragmatism
- Methodological pragmatism
Functional pragmatism

- Knowledge for action
- Knowledge should be useful for action and change.
  - Knowledge: Commercial sex workers do not wish to be known
  - What actions do I take when researching on this group
Referential pragmatism

- Knowledge about action
- Describing the world in action-oriented ways.
- Prior Information about the outcome/results of actions
Knowledge through action.
We learn about the world through action.
Knowledge is based on actions, experiences and reflections on actions.

Pragmatic research is therefore knowledge, experience and action driven.
Approaches to pragmatic research

- Formulate a clear research question.
- Research design and Data management.
- Research team formulation
- Community sensitisation programme.
- Consenting
Research Question

- A research question is a clear, focused, concise, complex and arguable question around which you center your research.

- A question about an issue that you are curious about.

- Not a question with obvious answers, a broad area of research.
Epidemiological studies

Descriptive
- Case report
- Case series
- Incidence
- Cross-sectional
- Ecological studies

Analytic
- Experimental
- Observational studies
  - Cohort
  - Case-control
  - prospective
  - retrospective

Clinical trial
- Community studies
Data management

- The process of controlling the information generated in a research.
- How to keep the information safe and confidential.
Team work

- Management (logistics, coordination, decision making)
- Collection of data (field team, nurses, doctors,)
- Data management (data manager)
- PI oversees all.
  - To be discussed under ethics and GCP
- community sensitisation programme.
- Consenting
Case Study

- Sexual abuse in Kintampo area
  - What research question can be asked?
  - What methods and design can be applied?
  - Who will be the key research team members?
  - What do we want to know, what Knowledge do we have?
    - Different research methods, cultural practices
  - Actions: research methods to employ, qualitative? Quantitative? How do you blend?