



## **Practitioner research**

### *Write up and Dissemination*

#### **JANET SOLER:**

That sounds a really good tactic. I'm also wondering, sometimes you get that far on, you lose sight of your original research question. How important do you think it is to keep the research question also on your mind in terms of how you're interrogating the literature and how you're interrogating the data in your evidence?

#### **MARY KELLET:**

I think you should have your research question with you at all times, all the way through the process from when you first identified that research question, through your reading when you're doing your literature review, all the way through your data collection and analysis, you know, you almost need it printed on your forehead. Because if you lose sight of your research question, it's very very easy to go off on the wrong track. And we're all very busy people, particularly practitioners doing research as well as a full time job, you don't want to waste any time by going off on, on red herrings. And it is easy to do that if you forget why you're doing the research; what it is that you're asking. Because if you don't hold on to that question, you'll generate the wrong kind of data and you'll suddenly think: But I've collected all this data and actually it's not answering the question. So find a way of holding it with you all the time. If you're working from a computer, have it as a banner heading at the top of all your sheets; if you're working with, with questionnaires or lots of sheets of data, somehow have a way of all your folders, have your research question written everywhere. Yeah, you must never lose sight of it.

#### **JANET SOLER:**

One of the big mistakes that students often make or beginning researchers often make and even experienced researchers is tending to be too descriptive and not to be critical enough or interrogate you know, in their analysis. Do you think that holding on to the question is also important for that?

#### **MARY KELLET:**

Describing should come through your data presentation, you shouldn't really need to be describing it. Your data should be strong enough so that that is showing if you've created some tables or, or you've got some transcripts, interview evidence, then your data is coming through quite strongly. You shouldn't need to be spending lots of time and lots of words describing that. The value of the words that you're going to write are the, are the way in

which you are interpreting what is coming through. But you must interpret it in a very critical way, i.e. you need to be cognisant all the time of whether you've got any bias in the way in which you're looking at that data.

If there is, then acknowledge that because that will put some context round it. So if you've been the practitioner researcher, if you have an interest in the outcomes of this research, you've got to be aware you might be seeing and interpreting that data with that kind of bias.

**JANET SOLER:**

In this course we're talking about transforming and using research for transforming educational context or even beyond, do you have any thoughts about dissemination, particularly dissemination to make a difference?

**MARY KELLET:**

I think dissemination is the poor relation in research. It's, it's what happens at the end and it gets the least amount of time and yet it is the most important. Because of the importance of getting your knowledge out there into the research community So really think about, right at the beginning when you've thought of your research question, thinking then: Where am I going to disseminate this? Who is the audience for this? How am I gonna reach that audience? What things do I need to put in place to open the right sort of gates that I will get the right sort of platforms in order to dissemination this?

There's so much really good research and I would emphasise there's a lot of very very good practitioner research that never gets outside the classroom or never get outside a school that could be shared and could be of benefit to so many other people.

I can't underestimate how important it is and how valuable it is for all of us to be able to have access to that research.