Introduction to Interviews

Guest Lecture
HSSP 110A: Integrative Seminar on Health
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My Background
Service Journalism Example

Source: USAID’s Front Lines
Service Journalism Example

Source: US Information Agency’s TOPIC Magazine
Service Journalism Example

Source: US Information Agency/India, Span Magazine

The Potato Revolution

A new technology has developed "true potato seeds" from the fruit of the flower. Indian farmers will pay much less than they used to for sowing a field. And the resulting potato crop will be virtually virus-free.

Early dawn in Punjab, or Uttar Pradesh, or Bihar, or Karnataka. Heavily laden potato trucks rumble down the highway, destined for markets thousands of kilometers away. Many of those potatoes will not be eaten. They will be used as seeds—cut up and planted.

"Here in Karnataka farmers cannot introduce good quality seed tubers because of the climate conditions," says K.S.N. Murthy, associate director, Centre for Technology Development (CTD) in Bangalore and former chief secretary, government of Karnataka. "Truckloads of seed tubers (60,000 tons every year) have to come from the northern states."

It takes up to two-and-a-half tons of tubers to sow a one-hectare field. Current production in India of certified seed tubers meets only 25 percent of farmer demand. For the rest, farmers must pay Rs. 2,000 or more per ton, often for degenerated stocks that require heavy inputs of fertilizers and pesticides and have low productivity. And in the north, farmers must put aside up to 25 percent of their crop to use as seed tubers for the next growing season.

But now a new, environmentally friendly, economically profitable technology for growing potatoes is capturing the interest of commercial growers, small farmers, and private seed companies in India—propagation using the "true potato seed" (TPS), the small seed contained in the fruit of the potato flower. TPS is expected to revolutionize potato production in India by the year 2000.

Span June 1996 29

Panjari farmer Prem Singh (center) and American agronomist Karl E. Foot (right) examine potatoes grown from "true potato seeds" under an Indo-U.S. joint venture that has received funding from USAID.
My Background
“This is one of many cracks in our h.s. dance floor. One girl was injured this year. I hope that this photo will help get the floor fixed.” Kerry 17
My Background
These two guys have chosen to open a salon rather than commit crime within the community. For them they saw this as the best way they can help themselves and survive.

This needle was left lying around the lawn at the hospital and a girl stepped on it. It is a dangerous thing to leave around. It can cause HIV/Aids transmission. This situation makes us feel that no one cares about our lives.
My Background
Inside My Head

The shell of my life became broken. Inside my head is scrambled with strands of my life no longer blended.

Source: Brain Injury X-Posed 2006
Photographer: Judy S
Qualitative Research: Finding Out What Stakeholders Think

A Social Justice Issue
Steps in Conducting Interviews

Step 1: Formulate your questions
  • What documentation exists?

Step 2: Prepare a short interview guide
  • What do you want to know more about?

Step 3: Select your key informant
  • Who can help you understand your topic?

Step 4: Conduct interviews
  • Where, when, how?

Step 5: Take adequate notes
  • To tape or not to tape?
Steps Continued

Step 6: Analyze interview data
- What themes emerge?
- What quotes or excerpts can you use?
- Should you include your questions or what you said?

Step 7: Check for reliability and validity
- How has your “lens” impacted your data?
- What aspects of the story has your interview emphasized? Missed?
- Do you want to share your interview and analysis with your key informant? Others?
Options for Including Visuals

Depending on your topic and your interview subject, consider bringing:

• A map showing a neighborhood, a city, bus routes
• Old photographs of a hospital, neighborhood, housing
• New or current photos of items above
• A flyer or other piece of visual documentation

Let your informant teach you through the visual:

• What bus route(s) do they take to their healthcare setting?
• Do they agree or disagree with the contents of a flyer?
Considering:

Step 1: Formulate questions
Step 3: Select Key Informants
Step 6: Check for reliability and validity

World Food Programme, India Office
Compensating for poor memory

To compensate for my poor memory and organizational skills, I need to put labels on everything in my home. Where are my socks? Which of these is my schedule book? On which shelf did I put my Bible? These labels are necessary 3 years after my accident and probably for many years to come. It is painful to remind myself about all of the brain power which I lost at the time of my car accident.
Lost Dreams

...this picture symbolizes what living with brain injury can be like....On an overcast day...I gazed up at the sky and took this picture through a tube. ...In the minds of many of us there are thoughts that we will never achieve some of the dreams we once held so dear...
Running on Ice

...Imagine yourself trying to run on ice...The faster you run, the more you get nowhere. These images parallel how each and every day of my life begins since I suffered my brain injury. I seem to spend a whole lot of time getting nothing accomplished.
Experiential Exercise

Work with a partner to map out the interview steps for your topic:

• **What documents/Internet sites could you review?** Briefly describe your topic and at least 3 possible documents or other sources you will read.

• **What questions might you ask?** Develop a list of at least six questions.

• **Who do you want to interview?** Develop at least three possibilities. Describe their pros and cons.

• **How prepare for any challenges might you face in conducting this interview?** List three possible challenges and describe what you would do to overcome them.

Be prepared to report out to the group.
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Questions/Brainstorm

Questions for me on conducting interviews?

- Was there anything that surprised you today?
- What (if anything) do you feel confident about?
- What (if anything) do you feel anxious or unsure about?
- Do you have any lingering questions?
Thank you – and Good Luck!

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