

Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Geriatric-Focused Curriculum in Improving the Basic Geriatrics Knowledge of Family Medicine Residents at the Lake Granbury Medical Center (LGMC)

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INTRODUCTION

The city of Granbury, Texas has a large population of people in the geriatrics age group, 65 years and older. This reflects the patient population at the Lake Granbury Medical Center, which is mostly geriatrics. However, there is a lack of knowledge and interest in Geriatrics medicine. Therefore, improving the knowledge of physicians-in-training in the field of Geriatrics will lead to an improved quality of care for Geriatric patients.

BACKGROUND

There is a need for Family Medicine residents at the Lake Granbury Medicine Center to have a high-quality education in the field of Geriatrics. This will ensure that high quality care will be offered to Geriatric patients.

PURPOSE

To improve the knowledge of Lake Granbury Medical Center Family Medicine residents in Geriatrics through high-quality education.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Is a Geriatric-focused curriculum effective in improving the Basic Geriatrics knowledge of Family Medicine residents at the LGMC?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The United States has an aging population. There is an inadequate level of knowledge on the part of medical professionals in the field of Geriatrics³. This is due to lack of a focused and systematic training in basic Geriatrics for medical students and resident physicians.



Figure 1: Lake Granbury Medical Center

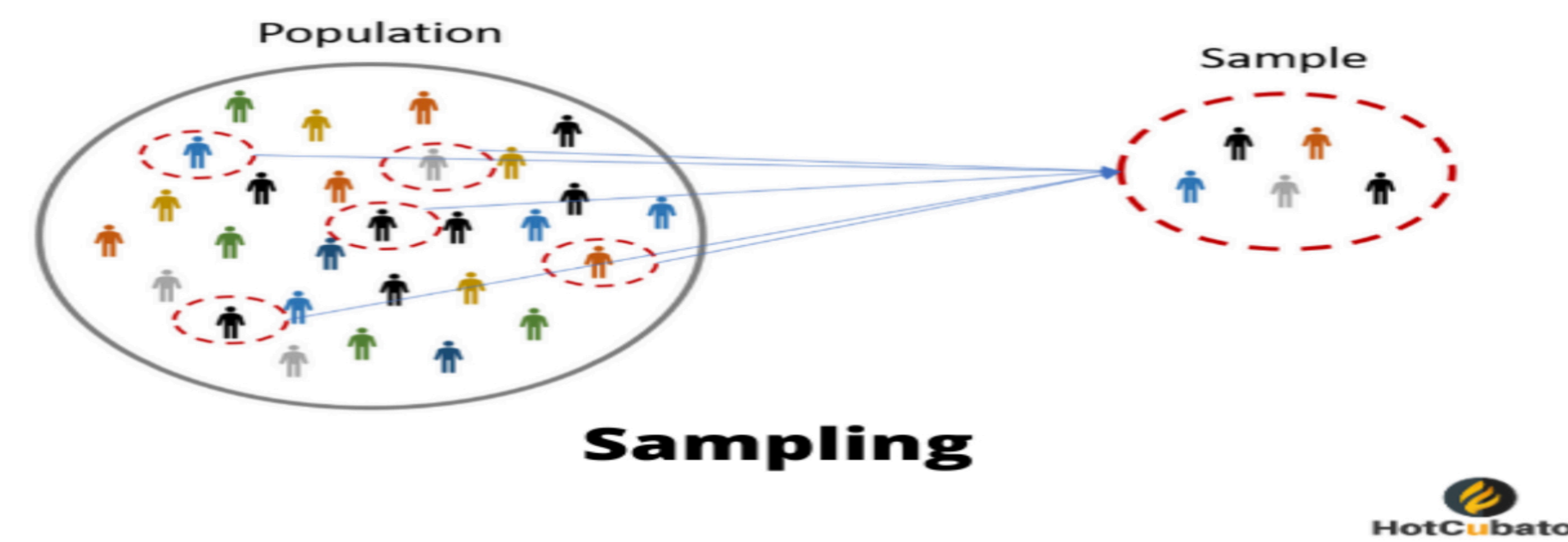


Figure 2: Convenience sample⁴

LIMITATIONS/DELIMITATIONS

Our program has not officially started, and we have an anticipated start date of 07/1/2024. Therefore, the actual implementation and results of the study will be in the future. In addition, being a new program, we will need a lot of support and vested interest from stakeholders, including faculty, hospital staff, and administrators.

We will also need stakeholder support in the area of funding in order to efficiently conduct the research.

RESEARCH DESIGN

A convergent parallel mixed methods research design will be used with convenience sampling. See Figures 2 and 3.

PARTICIPANTS

The population will be all residents at the LGMC which will include Family Medicine, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and Dermatology residents. A convenience sampling will be used to select the sample of interest which will be the Family Medicine residents.

The sample will include the first, second- and third-year Family Medicine residents at the LGMC. We anticipate having 6 Family Medicine residents per class.

-Inclusion criteria: Being a Family Medicine resident at the Lake Granbury Medical Center.

-Exclusion criteria: Medical students and residents in other medical specialties.

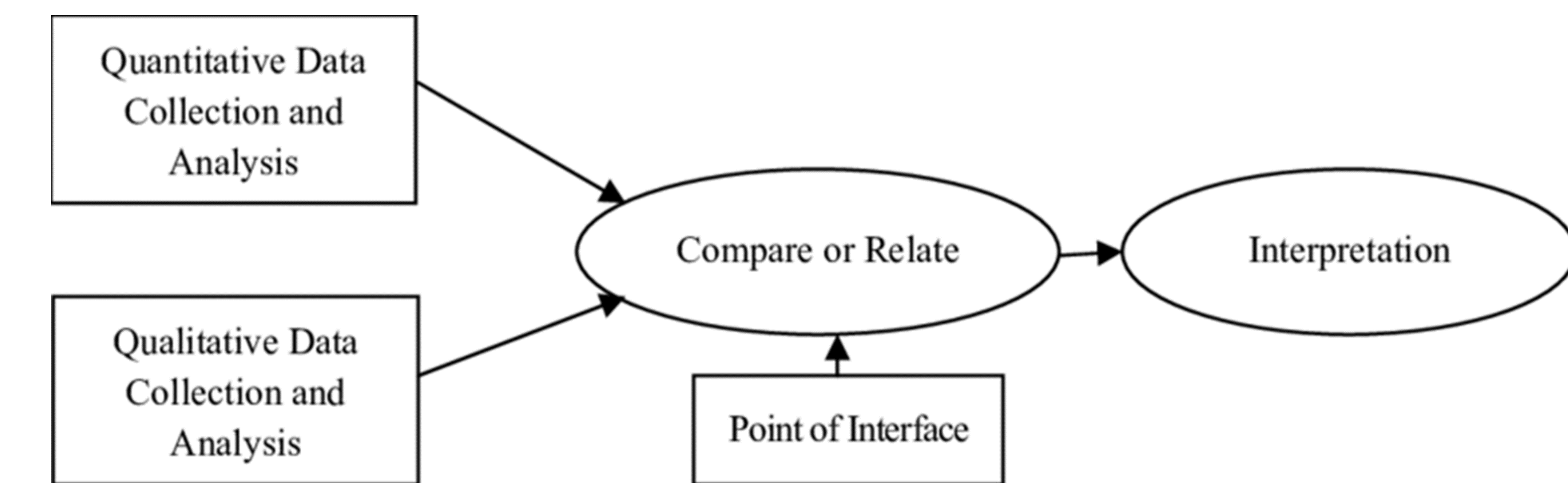


Figure 3: Convergent Parallel Mixed Methods Design (Creswell & Plano-Clark, 2011)⁵

PROCEDURES

Objective and subjective tools will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum. The University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Geriatrics Knowledge Test will be used as an objective tool to evaluate the residents' basic knowledge of Geriatric Medicine^{1,2}. Subjective tools that will be used include surveys/questionnaires and direct observation. Based on ACGME standards, the UCLA test will be used to administer pre and post-tests for the residents, before and after their adult inpatient rotations. Their test scores will provide quantitative data. Qualitative data will be obtained with questionnaires administered to residents at the end of the rotation. A "Direct-observation checklist" will be completed by the supervising faculty and will serve as additional qualitative data.

CONCLUSION

This research project aims to ensure that Family Medicine physicians are equipped with the basic knowledge of caring for the elderly population through a geriatric-focused education. This research project is an evaluation of the curriculum project.

REFERENCES

- [1. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281426171_Critical_Synthesis_Package_UCLA_Geriatric_Knowledge_Test_for_Primary_Care_Residents](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281426171_Critical_Synthesis_Package_UCLA_Geriatric_Knowledge_Test_for_Primary_Care_Residents)
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- [5. https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Convergent-Parallel-Mixed-Methods-Design-Creswell-Plano-Clark-2011_fig3_344382195](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Convergent-Parallel-Mixed-Methods-Design-Creswell-Plano-Clark-2011_fig3_344382195)

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