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SOC609 Assignment 1 Solution

Fall 2026

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SOC609 — Qualitative Research Methods

Assignment No. 1 — Fall 2026 | Sample Solution | Total Marks: 16 | Due Date: 4 November 2026

Scenario: A researcher interviews 12 women from one village about their experiences of employment. While interpreting the interviews, the researcher's personal beliefs about women's roles influence how some responses are understood. During the study, the researcher changes some interview questions according to the responses received but does not keep a record of these changes. The researcher later claims that the findings represent the experiences of working women throughout Pakistan. In the final report, the researcher provides limited information about the data collection and analysis processes.

Completed Table: Challenges in Qualitative Research

Challenge in qualitative research	Identification from the scenario	Measure to manage the challenge
Subjectivity	The researcher's personal beliefs about women's roles shaped how some interview responses were understood, so the findings partly reflect the researcher rather than only the participants.	Practise reflexivity: keep a reflexive journal of personal assumptions, and have a second researcher independently code part of the data to check the interpretation.
Replication	Interview questions were changed during the study but no record of the changes was kept, so another researcher cannot repeat the study in the same way.	Keep a full audit trail: record every change to the interview guide with the date and the reason, and keep a fixed core set of questions for all participants.
Generalizability	Findings from 12 women in one village are claimed to represent working women throughout Pakistan, but such a small, local sample cannot support a national claim.	Limit the claim to the studied context, or widen sampling purposively across regions and settings; describe the sample fully so readers can judge transferability.
Transparency	The final report gives limited information about how data were collected and analysed, so readers cannot judge the quality of the work.	Report the method in detail: sampling, interview procedure, and the steps of analysis, including how themes were formed from the data.