

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher explains her research methodology that will be carried out. The sections in this chapter will be research design, sampling, instrument, pilot study and data analysis.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The researcher will conduct an interview with each of the ten multiracial couples in the evenings or at night. A total of ten interviews will be conducted since each couple will be interviewed respectively in their own homes. The language used during the interviews will be English language and the Malay language, according to the request of the individual couples. This interview is based on ten questions (see appendix III: interview questionnaire, p. 58). The ten questions will also be presented in 'Bahasa Melayu' for couples who feel more comfortable using the Malay language (see appendix IV: interview questionnaire, p. 59). The questions asked in the Malay language will be similar to the questions asked in English. Pn. Nurliza bt. Mohd. Yusof who is an English graduate from University Malaya and is currently teaching English and Malay in the Form five classes in the Sultan Abdul Aziz secondary school in Kuala Selangor has

checked and affirmed that the ten questions to be used for the interview are grammatically correct and similar in meaning to the questions posed in English. The purpose of the interview is to obtain information about the couples' resiliency traits or the lack of it when they were told that their child was hearing impaired. In addition, the researcher will also request information on whether the couples used their cognitive skills, psychological resources and obtained any social support to overcome or adapt to the stress of having a sensori-neural hearing impaired child. The couples will answer questions separately (see questions 3 and 4 on the interview questionnaire: p. 58) only when requested. Otherwise, the couples are free to take turns to answer similar questions according to their varying or similar experiences. All their responses will be documented. Their responses will be audio taped with their permission, in order to get an accurate account of their full responses.

On the same day, following the interview, the couples will be given a demographic data form to fill in their residential town, respondent number, age, gender and ethnicity (see appendix I: Demographic Data, p. 56). Some demographic data forms will be in 'Bahasa Melayu' for couples who prefer the Malay language (see appendix II: Demographic Data, p. 57). The demographic data in the Malay language is similar to the demographic data in English. Next, the couples will be given a couple resilience scale to rate the resiliency of themselves individually (see appendix V: pp. 61-62, Couple Resilience Scale, questions or categories 1 - 9) and as a couple (questions or categories 10 - 17). In addition, the couples will also individually rate their life partners resiliency, respectively on the same couple resilience scale handout (questions or categories 1 - 9). The purpose of this is to see if there is a correlation between their own rating of

themselves and their spouses rating of themselves because sometimes an individual may not be able to rate themselves objectively. The couple resilience scale will be translated into the Malay Language in order to use as a reference for couples who have difficulty in English (see appendix VI: pp. 63-64). Pn Nurliza bt. Mohd. Yusof (mentioned earlier) who is well versed in the Malay language and English has examined and ascertained that the Couple Resilience Scale, which is in the Malay language is similar in meaning to the Couple Resilience Scale in English. The researcher will give all the ten couples the similar instructions on how to complete the couple resilience scale and a similar explanation of the meaning of all the seventeen categories. There is no rigid time limit to complete the rating scale on the same day that it is given. However, couples are requested to hand in the couple resilience scale with the completed ratings on the following day of the interview. This couple resilience scale will determine the level of resilience the couples have. If the couples displayed a commendable resiliency during the interview, then they should also have a high rating on the couple resilience scale.

3.3 SAMPLING

Ten multiracial couples (Chinese, Indians and Malays) whose child has sensori-neural deafness will be participants of this project. The couples are chosen from Klang and Kuala Selangor. The couples' children attend the special education class in the secondary Sultan Abdul Samad school in Klang, the secondary Pengkalan Permatang school in Kuala Selangor and the Shah Alam vocational school for the hearing impaired children. The names of sixteen couples with children who have sensori-neural hearing

loss were given to the researcher by the supervisors of the three schools mentioned above. Out of the sixteen couples, ten couples were chosen because they stepped forward on their own accord to take part in this project when the researcher shared the importance of this project to them. Fortunately, none of the ten couples are illiterates and this will enable them to read the 17 categories on the couple resilient scale. The other six couples whom the researcher approached did not want to participate in this project due to personal reasons.

3.4 INSTRUMENT

Two instruments (see appendix III & V: pp. 58, 61-62) will be used as follows: a) an interview questionnaire of ten pertinent questions linked with resiliency and the core factors of resiliency will be used in the interview of the ten couples to obtain information on their resiliency as a couple. b) a demographic data form will be given to obtain relevant background information about each couple (residential town, sample number, age, gender, and ethnicity). Then a couple resilience scale consisting of 17 categories will be given to each participant. For questions or categories: 1 - 9, couples will rate themselves individually and their life partners. Both partners will take turns to rate themselves individually as a couple for questions or categories 10 - 17. The scoring category is, 5 : very high, 4 : high, 3 : moderate, 2 : low, and 1 : very low. The higher the rating, the higher the resiliency and vice versa. Both these research instruments were designed by the researcher based on her readings mentioned in the previous chapter.

3.5 PILOT STUDY

First, the researcher separately interviewed two couples from Klang, who appeared to be eager to participate in this study as soon as possible. The couples were also given the demographic data form and the couple resilience scale on the same day. The results of the two interviews and the feedback from the completed couple resilience scale helped the researcher decide whether her interview questions and the 17 categories on the couple resilience handout were appropriate or required any modifications such as simpler vocabulary or a less sensitive question formation style. Upon completion of the two interviews and based on the feedback from the couples who completed the couple resilience scale, the researcher discovered that the questionnaire and scale were reliable and valid because the couple understood and willingly answered the questions. In addition, the researcher could highlight the factors of resilience of the couples.

3.6 DATA ANALYSIS

The data obtained from the interviews will be analyzed to obtain information and make generalizations as to whether the couples have or do not have adequate resiliency to adapt or overcome the stress of facing and dealing with a hearing impaired child. The data will be analyzed to determine if the couples have the necessary cognitive skills (intelligence, coping style, personal control, and assignment of meaning), psychological resources (inner locus control of thoughts, feelings and behaviour) and social support (cultural influences and community, school, professional, personal and familial support)

which are the core factors of resilience. Resilient couples will be those who have these internal and external core factors of resilience and they will be able to maintain a strong relationship with each other inspite of having a hearing impaired child.

The demographic data and the scores obtained from the couple resilience scale that has seventeen categories (CAT) will be entered on two answer summary sheets (see appendix VII & VIII: pp. 65-66, answer summary sheet). Each participant will be allocated one row on the answer summary sheet. The first five columns list demographic data. The remaining 17 columns (CAT 1, CAT 2 - CAT 17 for scoring categories) on the first answer summary sheet (see appendix VII: p. 65) allow entry for the scores (5 - 1) of each participant's responses. The 9 columns (CAT 1 - CAT 9) on the second answer summary sheet (see appendix VIII: p. 66) allow entry of partner ratings (5 - 1) in order to see if there is a correlation between the responses of the first nine categories on the first answer summary sheet and to determine if the questions on individual and spouse's resiliency have been answered objectively. Analytical solutions (such as the correlation and frequency of the ratings of each category) of the collected data recorded in the two answer summary sheets will be obtained by using the Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) 8.0, software programme. The frequency of the ratings for each of the seventeen categories will be obtained in order to see which are the most frequent, moderate and less frequent categories that the participants identify with. This will help to form a deduction of the number of resiliency traits which are more frequently found in resilient couples and the lack of resiliency traits found among less resilient couples who have a hearing impaired child.