**COREQ - Checklist**

a 32-item checklist for interviews and focus groups

**COREQ** stands for **‘COnsolidated criteria for REporting Qualitative research’**. It is a set of guidelines designed to improve the reporting of **Qualitative studies**. It provides a checklist of items that authors should include when reporting their research, with the **aim of enhancing transparency, completeness, and clarity in the reporting Qualitative studies.** Adhering to the **COREQ** guidelines helps ensure that key details about study design, conduct, and analysis are adequately communicated, facilitating the critical appraisal and interpretation of research findings.

Author needs to comply with the 32-item checklist for explicit and comprehensive reporting of qualitative studies involving the in-depth interviews and focus groups, develop by Tong et al. and recommended by **EQUATOR** Network and endorsed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (**ICMJE**) to maintain the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals.

**[Instruction for Author:** Please go through recommendations all the items, and write the page number of your manuscript where the information is present. Also briefly state the relevant text from your manuscript. Note that completely filled Checklist is mandatory to complete tour submission to JKAHS (Journal of Karnali Academy of Health Sciences)

**Note:** State N/A if some statement is Not Applicable in your manuscript for the particular study design.

**COREQ-Checklist: COnsolidated criteria for REporting Qualitative research’** (**COREQ**)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SN** | **Item** | **Guiding Question/Description** | **Yes/No** | | **Page No.** | |
| **Domain 1** | **Research team and reflexivity** | | | | |  | |
| **a. Personal Characteristics** | | | |  | |  | |
| 1 | Interviewer/facilitator | Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group? |  | |  | |
| 2 | Credentials | What were the researcher’s credentials? E.g. PhD, MD |  | |  | |
| 3 | Occupation | What was their occupation at the time of the study? |  | |  | |
| 4 | Gender | Was the researcher male or female? |  | |  | |
| 5 | Experience and training | What experience or training did the researcher have? |  | |  | |
| **b. Relationship with Participant** | | | |  | |  | |
| 6 | Relationship Established | Was a relationship established prior to study commencement? |  | |  | |
| 7 | Participant knowledge of the interviewer | What did the participants know about the researcher? e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research |  | |  | |
| 8 | Interviewer characteristics | What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic |  | |  | |
| **Domain 2** | **STUDY DESIGN** | | |  | |  | |
| **a. Theoretical framework** | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Methodological orientation and Theory | What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.g. grounded theory,  discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis |  | |  | |
| **b. Participant selection** | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Sampling | How were participants selected? e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball, etc. |  | |  | |
| 11 | Method of approach | How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email, etc. |  | |  | |
| 12 | Sample size | How many participants were in the study? |  | |  | |
| 13 | Non-participation | How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons? |  | |  | |
| **c. Setting** | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Setting of data collection | Where was the data collected? e.g. home, clinic, workplace, etc. |  | |  | |
| 15 | Presence of non-participants | Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers? |  | |  | |
| 16 | Description of sample | What are the important characteristics of the sample? e.g. demographic data, date |  | |  | |
| **d. Data collection** | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Interview guide | Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested? |  | |  | |
| 18 | Repeat interviews | Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many? |  | |  | |
| 19 | Audio/visual recording | Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data? |  | |  | |
| 20 | Field notes | Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group? |  | |  | |
| 21 | Duration | What was the duration of the interviews or focus group? |  | |  | |
| 22 | Data saturation | Was data saturation discussed? |  | |  | |
| 23 | Transcripts returned | Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction? |  | |  | |
| **Domain 3** | **ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS** | | |  | |  | |
| **a. Data analysis** | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Number of data coders | How many data coders coded the data? |  | |  | |
| 25 | Description of the coding tree | Did authors provide a description of the coding tree? |  | |  | |
| 26 | Derivation of themes | Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data? |  | |  | |
| 27 | Software | What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data? |  | |  | |
| 28 | Participant checking | Did participants provide feedback on the findings? |  | |  | |
| **b. Reporting** | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Quotations presented | Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes / findings? Was each  quotation identified? e.g. participant number |  | |  | |
| 30 | Data and findings consistent | Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings? |  | |  | |
| 31 | Clarity of major themes | Were major themes clearly presented in the findings? |  | |  | |
| 32 | Clarity of minor themes | Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes? |  | |  | |