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# Lessons Learned from Online Qualitative Data Collection in an International Collaborative Study During the COVID-19 Pandemic

## Teachers' Effort to Cope with Conflict in Implementing Comprehensive Sexuality Education at Secondary Schools in Mataram City, Indonesia

Fumiko Shibuya<sup>1\*</sup>, Dian Puspita Sari<sup>2</sup>, Cut Warnaini<sup>2</sup>, Arina Windri Rivarti<sup>2</sup>, Rie Takeuchi<sup>1</sup>, Hamsu Kadriyan<sup>2</sup>, Calvin de los Reyes<sup>1</sup>, and Jun Kobayashi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Graduate School of Health Sciences, University of the Ryukyus, Nishihara, Japan  
<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Medicine, University of Mataram, Mataram, Indonesia  
\*Corresponding author. Email: fumiko.shibuya79@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

An online survey was conducted for an international collaborative study from a remote area during the COVID-19 pandemic because the researchers needed to consider non-face-to-face methods of conducting an international collaborative study in situations in which social distance must be maintained. In an international collaborative study between Indonesia and Japan, we were able to conduct online qualitative data collection in Lombok, Indonesia, during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study aimed to evaluate the feasibility of qualitative data collection, data analysis, and ethical considerations for participants of an online qualitative data collection in an international collaborative study. The results were divided into three categories to summarize the lessons learned: 1) field coordination of an online interview guide and protocol, 2) ethical considerations regarding gender and privacy, and 3) methodology focusing on the online qualitative data collection. The lessons learned revealed the advantages and disadvantages of online qualitative data collection to handle multiple challenges. The online qualitative data collection conducted for an international collaborative study during the COVID-19 pandemic overcame several challenges through protocol development.

**Keywords:** Online qualitative data collection, Online methods, international collaborative study.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background

An online survey was conducted for an international collaborative study from a remote area during the COVID-19 pandemic because the researchers needed to consider non-face-to-face methods of conducting an international collaborative study in situations in which social distance must be maintained. Advances in information technology (IT) have made it possible to

collection. In addition, online qualitative data collection requires a specific protocol that includes ethical considerations and detailed interview methodology [2].

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, online qualitative data collection that maintains social distance and considers ethical issues has been recommended [3,4]. Previous studies on online surveys were mainly used to conduct interviews focusing on the sensitive topics of HIV/AIDS or sexuality [5,6]. Previous studies have shown that practicing online

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