

Methodology

For my method of research into families I have decided to choose a questionnaire. There are many advantages to this method, such as:

- Cheap, quick efficient way of getting large amounts of information from large numbers of people for you and for the people you are giving it to.
- They produce accurate results.
- They are confidential.
- They produce quantitative data, which will in turn measure the strength of a connection between different factors, comparisons and differences between different respondents.

There are also a few disadvantages to this method which include:

- Those who reply may not be typical to the population therefore you can't generalise.
- The response rate is difficult to tell

Questionnaires produce quantitative which is useful in my method of research as then I can compare the respondents results to therefore I can come to a conclusion to whether females do the majority of household and childcare tasks. However I cannot generalise, as I would have to observe the whole country then.

I will use both open and closed questions to get different types of information such as qualitative and quantitative data. I will be using quantitative data to make comparisons by the statistics which are produced from this type of data. Furthermore, I will be using qualitative data, as well as to get explanations and reasons. However, I will be using mostly closed questions to keep confidentiality and anonymity. Another reason for this choice is that then the results produced will be clear and will be easily classified. In my questionnaire I am going to ask questions such as:

- Who carries out the most childcare and household tasks?
- Do you and your partner do particular jobs around the house e.g. woman – childcare, man – D.I.Y.

In addition, I am going to produce a chart for the respondents to complete which will definitely be clear and easy for the respondents and for me. All of the questions I am asking in my questionnaire will link to my aims and answer my hypothesis. Due to the fact my respondents will not recognise sociological words I am going to have to explain in a lot more detail so that it is easy to understand. It is also going to be hard to break down the aims to understandable sentences, as the respondents will only be estimating their answers.

My method of research is definitely very reliable in many ways as I am likely to get all replies back from the questionnaire as I will be giving it to people I know. However, some people may lie which will give invalid data. I will promise to keep to ethical issues such as anonymity and confidentiality and will make sure I have their full consent. Additionally, I will make sure my questionnaire is sensitive by piloting it on people I know such as my parents. By piloting I will be able to correct errors and mistakes to make it clear and concise for my respondents.

