

Practice based research: Some approaches for the analysis of naturally occurring data

Mike Lopez,

Manukau Institute of Technology,

mike.lopez@manukau.ac.nz

Abstract

The use of naturally occurring data such as that from assessment instruments is intuitively appealing for practice based research. It minimises the burden placed on participants and serves to keep research close to practice.

Such data however poses a number of challenges when it comes to analysis. These challenges include : the lack of a random sample or random allocation to groups; choosing appropriate techniques for small sample sizes; the questionable nature of assumptions of distributions; the difference between measurement and marks or scores; equating of questions across different contexts and institutions; and the treatment of missing data.

This presentation reviews some of the work carried out by the Bracelet project, explores some aspects that are challenging in analysis, and proposes some approaches that may be useful.

Keywords: Bracelet, methodology, analysis.