

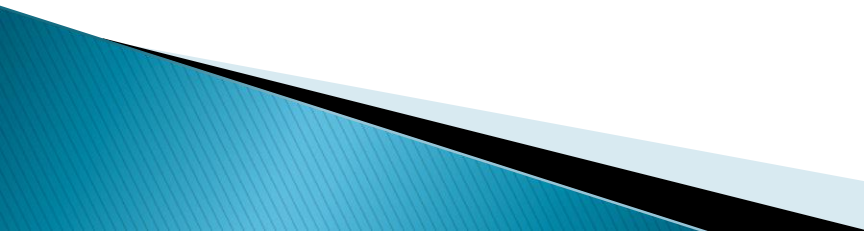
Section: Sociological approaches to investigation in Social Medicine

Practical 4 (09 – 13 March)

Sociological methods: Interview, Observation

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the lesson the students should be able to:

1. Distinguish the different types of interviews and their advantages and disadvantages.
 2. Decide which type of interview and which method of conducting is appropriate in different situations.
 3. List the main stages in the interview process.
 4. Define the observation as a sociological approach for data collecting.
 5. Understand the application of observation in medical practice and research.
 6. Comment advantages and disadvantages of a specific type of interview and observation.
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SOURCES AND METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

SOURCES	METHODS
1. Self-consciousness – verbal information coming from the investigated subject* or subject's circle**	Interview – if the information comes orally (by words) Self-administered questionnaire – if the information comes by writing
2. Subject's behavior	Sociological observation
3. Documents coming from or concerning the investigated subject	Documents review

*investigated subjects are called “respondents”

**Subject's circle – family members, colleagues, neighbors

To objectives 1-3

INTERVIEW

A research procedure based on a conversation (direct verbal communication) between interviewers and interviewees with the purpose eliciting certain information

CLASSIFICATION OF INTERVIEW

1. Depending on the type of the questionnaire

A. Structured (direct, formal, guided)

B. Unstructured (non-directive, informal, open-ended)

C. Semi-structured

2. Depending on the number of interviewees

A. Personal

B. Collective



CLASSIFICATION OF INTERVIEW

3. Depending on the number of meetings

A. Single-time

B. Panel (repetitive)

2. Depending on the methods of conducting

A. Face-to-face

B. With distance means of communication

NB! For more information about different types of interview see the lecture and try to fill the tables on the following slides

Comparative analysis: Advantages and disadvantages of structured and unstructured interview

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Structured interview		
Unstructured interview		

Comparative analysis: Advantages and disadvantages of face-to-face and telephon interview

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Face-to-face interview		
Telephon interview		

To objectives 4 - 6

SOCIOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Definition – a method for collecting sociological information in which researcher (observer) is in a position directly to perceive and record specific aspects of the environment and subjects under study

Types of observation

1. Depending on who is making observation

a) self-observation

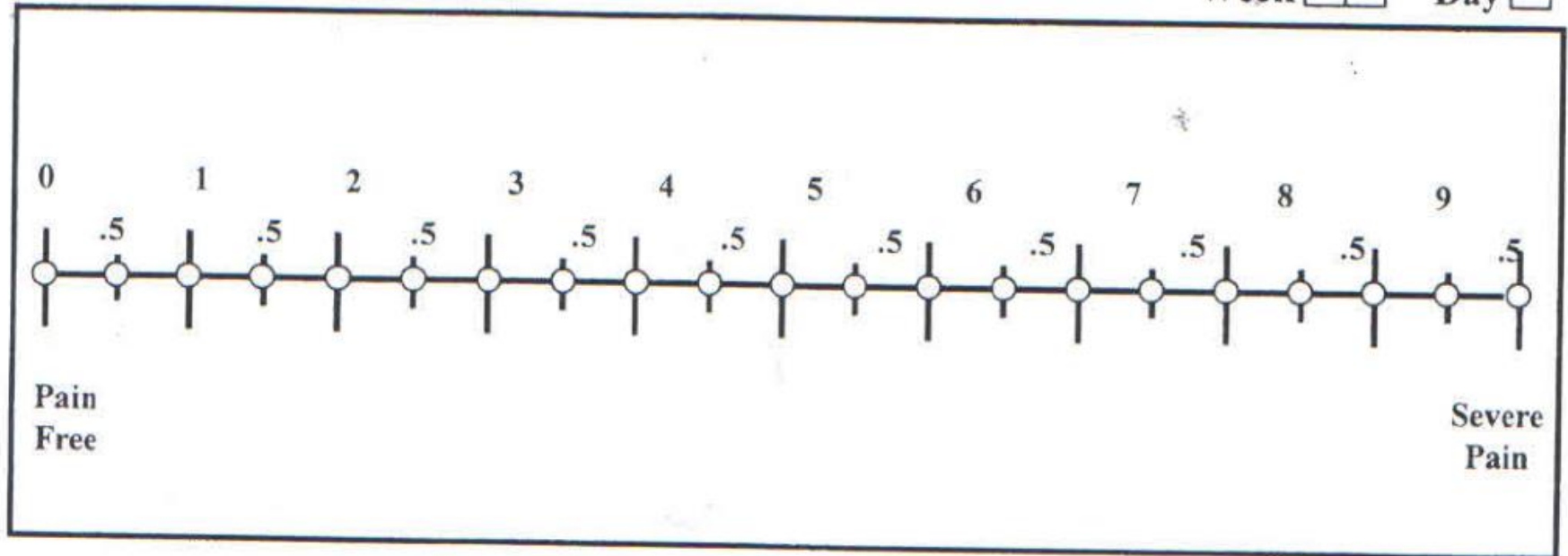
- in clinical practice – to observe pain and other symptoms of disease
- in management – for time budget

b) outside observation

Examples for self-observation: diary for observation of pain

Date / /

Week Day



Instructions:



- Please, fill out pain scale at the same time each day.
- Please color-in the circle that best describes your pain at that moment in time.

Examples for self-observation: diary for student's time budget*

ACTIVITIES	WEEKDAYS	
	Wednesday	Sunday
	Spare time for	Spare time for
1. Classes (lectures, seminars etc.)		
2. Travel to the place of classes and back to home		
3. Studying at home		
4. Feeding		
5. Personal hygiene		
6. Social and cultural activities		
7. Other activities		

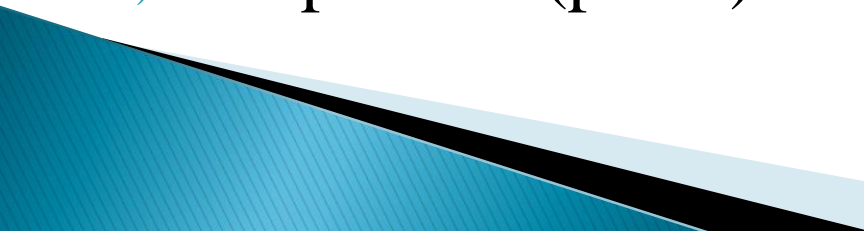
* Fill this for you and organize your time better

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

 Self-observation	 Advantages	Disadvantages
Self-observation	Greater access to subjective experience Less intrusive Less expensive	Less likely to record accurately Not all people are capable to do self-observation
Outside observation	Greater objectivity, less bias More likely to record accurately	Cannot directly access subjective perceptions More intrusive More expensive and time consuming

SOCIOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Types of observation

2. Depending on the settings
 - a) In laboratory settings
 - b) In natural settings
 3. Depending on use of instrumentarium
 - a) Unaided observation
 - b) Observation using instrumentarium
 4. Depending on the time
 - a) Single time
 - b) Repetitive (panel)
- 

SOCIOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Types of observation

5. Depending on the communication between observer and observed people
 - a) Participating (Internal)
 - b) Non-participating (External)
6. Depending on the anonymity
 - a) Disclosed
 - b) In secret

NB! For more information about different types of observation see the lecture and try to fill the tables on the following slides

Comparative analysis: advantages and disadvantages of participating vs. non-participating observation

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Participating		
Non-participating		

Define the observer roles

	Participating	Non-participating
Disclosed		
In secret		

TEST YOURSELF

1. Which of the following is an advantage of unstructured over structured interview.

- A. Detailed information on the theme under study can be obtained
- B. An equal information may not be collected of all interviewees
- C. Necessity of better interviewer skills and experience

2. In unstructured interview the questionnaire consist of closed-response questions in strict order:

- A. True
- B. False

3. Observational study using “pseudo-patients” in hospitals employs investigators in role of:


- A. Participant as observer
- B. Complete participant
- C. Complete observer

TEST YOURSELF

4. A research method in which a researcher utilizes data collected by others is:

- A. Self-observation
- B. Experiment
- C. Document review

5. The observer role in case of internal disclosed observation is:

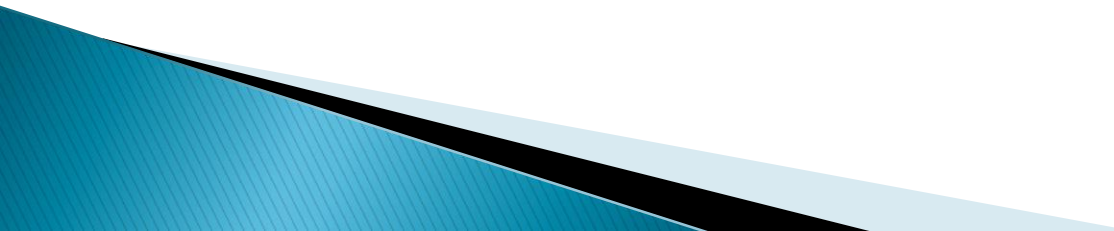
- A. Observer as participant.
 - B. Participant as observer
 - C. Complete observer
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TEST YOURSELF

6. The role of “complete participant” is case of:

- A. Internal disclosed observation
- B. Internal observation in secret
- C. External observation in secret

7. The change in the subject’s behavior caused by the awareness of being studied is called:

- A. Hawthorne effect
 - B. Ecological fallacy
 - C. Confounding
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TEST YOURSELF - ANSWERS

1. A

2. B

3. B

4. C

5. B

6. B

7. A