

Rose Donald

Feedback on coursework provided by Professor Paul Dowling

The critical review demonstrates an understanding of the main arguments in the paper and of the general principles of classic grounded theory. The comment about the initial selection of subjects is valid. I am not sure that Johnston herself constitutes pushing as a positive action. She cites a definition that does so, but notes that the outcomes of pushing may also have a wider negative impact. I do not agree that the use of an emic term for the core category is a good idea as this may tend, on reading, to dilute the concept that has been generated in the research.

The proposed study is viable and potentially interesting. Although there is a list of 'references', there is a paucity of citations in the text itself and, in particular, no citations of methodological texts (although some are listed). There is, however, evidence of a good level of understanding of methodological issues, so the problem is a misunderstanding of genre. Three papers are reviewed and these reviews show a good level of understanding of their arguments and some appropriate comments are made, for example, in respect of the advantage/disadvantage of group interviews. On the other hand, there seems to be a suggestion of the idea that validity is affirmed by the inclusion of data extracts; this is not really the case as data needs to be interpreted and this interpretation needs to be elaborated in the text. I am a little concerned at the proposal to decline to interview where permission for audio recording is not forthcoming: there is no need, in this kind of research, to generate identical data forms for all subjects and declining an offer to participate—albeit without the recorder—is perhaps a little disrespectful.