

**Dominant Research Method Adopted by 2023 M.Sc. Graduates of Public Administration in Selected Nigerian Universities and Implication for Practice**

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E-mail: ugwulaky@gmail.com; sublimeconsultlimited@gmail.com**Abstract.**

Social and behavioural Scientists are concerned about identifying the most suitable research method adopted in investigating contemporaneous issues in public administration. They are, however, in agreement that choice of appropriate methodical procedure should be guided by research processes, objectives and measures for research design and means of data collection. The objective of this qualitative exploratory case study is to underscore the dominant research method implemented by 2023 M.Sc. graduates of public administration in some purposely selected Universities in Nigeria with a view to finding out the implication of the choices for the practice of the science of public administration. Research questions focused on which research methodology was the most dominantly applied and the implications of applying unsuitable research methods, among others. Data were collected from 36 purposely selected graduates from three Nigerian universities located in the three broad regions of the country via unstructured open-ended interview procedures, documented sources and observational field notes. The data were subjected to an inductive coding procedure and thematic examination. Findings suggest that the dominantly adopted method is quantitative research method. The result further suggests that qualitative challenges could be substantially reduced by strict adherence to established scientific measures and commitment to the ethical processes of qualitative impartiality and dependability. The implications for positive social change include discussing how academic policy makers and practitioners may be able to act on the study findings to bring about public administration as a course of study with appropriate, popular and firmly established scientific research tradition.

Key words: Public Administration, qualitative, exploratory, case study, implication.

Introduction/Background

The overall goal of research methodology is to offer an organized and transparent structure to hypothetical scientific assumptions which when subjected to systematic investigations guarantees the reliability of the outcomes as well as the foundations of knowledge in the specific area of concern. It is a crucial constituent of the research practice. According to Christou (2023), it provides a planned approach to conducting research, safeguarding the reliability and validity of research results, easing communication and teamwork, and helping in the development of

knowledge in given field of study. Choice of research method is guided by certain considerations such as research problem, research objectives/goals, nature of the data to be collected, the specific research questions guiding the study, and the overarching objectives of the study (Lim et al., 2023). Consequently, an inquiry into the methods through which we gain reliable scientific knowledge about issues in public administration as a course of study was considered imperative. This is because public administration is intended to equip the practitioners with the necessary knowledge to

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understand the basic essentials, purposes and values of administration as applied for efficient public sector management as well as the advancement of scholarly thoughts in the field (Bahishti, 2022).

Unfortunately, the area has remained a field of study where many scholars are yet to come to firm grips with the most suitable, effective and efficient research methodology that will be highly responsive in exploring commonplace concerns in the area. This is because human eccentricities and other modern-day dilemmas/issues in the area are indeterminate, unstable or uncertain (Tuffour, 2017; Pistol, & Bucea-Manea-Tonis, (2017). This is in addition to other human factor challenges to research in the field of Public Administration such as issues of subjectivity of opinions, conflicting or variable individual and group interests, undue influences, competing and contradictory values, and, above all, the unpredictability of human behaviours, Box (2024).

Lim (2023) opined that there is a need for a research tradition a research tradition that is methodically equipped to tackle these aforementioned problems and make success out of the way and means they are handled. Creswell (2019); Bahishti (2022), Barney & Anselm (2017), among others, are unanimous in upholding that such research tradition is steeped in the characteristics of qualitative research method/practice which is basically constructive/interpretive with the aim of discovering the “how” and “why” of the social phenomena

However, it is commonplace to see scholars rely on any of three broad research approaches such as quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods paradigms to ground their studies without taking into consideration the philosophies behind each of them. In fact, each of the research methods has its own orientation thrust and suitability conditions to guide practice. The point being made is that

the entire subject-matter relates to the paradigm war or paradigm debate between qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches. As a fact, Silywey (2019), believes that quantitative and qualitative approaches are not two self-contradictory ways of doing similar things. Each of them has varying strengths/rationalities as well as weaknesses, and they are employed to deal with diverse types of research questions and objectives. Maxwell (2013) states that many researchers pay undue premium to the quantitative tradition based on a quantitative mental model, thereby patronizing the quantitative approach and deemphasizing the key strengths of the qualitative method. While quantitative research approach sees the world from the prism of variables that explain world phenomena/sensations from a statistical relationship between two or more variables, the qualitative process-based tradition sees the world in terms of people who have their peculiar behavioural tendencies, share in events, happenings and situations as well as in the processes that connect all of this. The mixed methods approach draws strength from an admixture of quantitative and qualitative methods – a compromise route to the research process.

It is important, therefore, that researchers prudently consider available research methods and adopt the most suitable procedure which guarantees, all things being equal, that the study would yield significant and reliable results. The three broad research methods as mentioned above are not applied in a study by coincidence; they are chosen advisedly. The methods are central to the process by which we design, conduct and scrutinize research studies. Each of the methods is an essential component of the research process and when chosen appropriately, they guide the researcher in data collection, analysis and interpretation of results.

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Rahman (2017), says that research methodology is also fundamental to the protection of the cogency, dependability, and validity of research outcomes. Without a clear and well-defined research methodology, researchers run the risk of producing results that are biased, inaccurate and defective or cooked up. Consequently, the purpose for this study - **Dominant Research Method Adopted by 2023 M.Sc. Graduates of Public Administration in Selected Nigerian Universities and Implication for Practice** – is to seek and protect the adoption of responsive research method in investigating identified concerns/issues in public management. This study is being grounded by qualitative methodology, and the following research questions guided the study:

1. What research method was the leading research approach adopted by 2023 M.Sc. Graduates of Public Administration in Selected Nigerian Universities?
2. What were the problems associated with adopting unsuitable research method by 2023 M.Sc. Graduates of Public Administration in Selected Nigerian Universities?
3. What are your recommendations towards solving the problems arising from adopting unsuitable research method?

Design and Methods

Research design and methodology are closely interrelated and represent the tactic for the overall research plan of action to be implemented. It guides the researcher in obtaining the required data that will be of assistance in effectively answering research questions (Eyisi, 2016; Creswell, 2017). This study implemented qualitative case study design as an approach to establish the dominant research method adopted by 2023 M.Sc. Graduates of Public Administration in

selected Nigerian Universities and implication for practice in the field.

The qualitative paradigm was chosen for this inquiry because it is basically constructive/interpretive with the objective of discovering what Kraus et al., (2022) called the social phenomena. This method was employed as against the quantitative or mixed methods approaches because the problem statement essentially desires “a constructivist approach of exploring behavioural issues instead of an effort to generate hypothesis” (Damianakis and Woodford, 2012). For grasp of methodical differences, I hereby enclose in this paper as Appendix “A”: Methodical/Orientation Differences between and among the Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Methods Approaches (see document after “References” at the end of this paper).

2023 M.Sc. degree graduates of public administration from the following Universities constituted sources of the primary data for the study: one Federal University (University of Abuja located at northern region), one State University (Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki located at the eastern region of Nigeria) and one private University (Lead City University, Ibadan located at the western region of Nigeria). As the qualitative investigator, I chose the type of interview that would be most valuable in gathering the needed information to responsively answer the research questions. There were no comprehensive published data on the subject of my enquiry. Therefore, I prepared and made use of interview protocol/guide and interview questions. I also undertook all other necessary measures leading to pilot testing in order to improve my research designs so as to identify potential problems before commencement of the full-scale study (Atkinson, (2021).

Data Collection Methods



Data collection was conducted through Desk Review. This comprised completed 2023 M.Sc. research project copies of the research participants which were submitted to the appropriate places in their respective universities, namely: departments of public administration, Schools of Post-Graduate studies as well as their universities' libraries. I similarly obtained useful information about the number of 2023 graduates from Convocation brochures of the universities concerned. I correspondingly reviewed literatures on research methods adopted by the graduates and kept observational interview notes as a journal maintained for recording day-to-day sum-ups of field observations during the duration of the study. These notes constituted key part of my analysis and conclusions.

Ethical Consideration

Qualitative researchers are, of necessity, obligated to uphold ethical principles and standards. This dictates that all research on human subjects should guarantee that the research is carried out in strict faithfulness to specific ethical standards as they concern safeguarding of vulnerable populations, deference to persons, his/her freedom as well as impartiality to all involved and other related important ethical values (McCormack & Carr, et al., 2012). In this study, the participants' identities were not made public. To ensure the safeguarding of the participants, the identities of participants from the University of Abuja (UNIABJ) were identified as UNIABJA, UNIABJB, and UNIABJC etc. till the number was exhausted. Similarly, participants from the Ebonyi State University, Abakiliki (ESU) were identified as ESUAA, ESUAB, and ESUAC etc. till the number was exhausted. In the same token, participants from Lead City University, Ibadan (LCUI) were identified as LCUA, LCUIB, LCUIC etc., till the number was exhausted.

In this study, steps were taken to lessen risks involved (if any) and protect participants/stakeholders' welfare. Participants' involvement was willingly obliged; appropriate information vis-à-vis the nature of their involvement and whether there would be possible risks to their participation was provided. They were rest assured that their participation was based on their consent and that they enjoy the freedom to withdraw whenever they so desired. The research was executed with "extreme possible benefits to the participants/stakeholders, and with no possible harm" (Walden University, Center for Research Quality. (n.d.e.)

Area of Study and population

As earlier pointed out, three Universities constituted the area of study, namely: one federal university, one state University, and one private university which were the institutions from where the research participants emerged. The locations of the universities were provided above. The study did not investigate the state of origin or nationality of the study participants because such category of data was considered unhelpful in realizing the main purpose of this study.

The population comprise M.Sc. Degree graduates who studied public administration in the named Universities in 2023. The study's population was accessed via available books from the office of the Secretary, Post-Graduates Schools of the three universities being researched. The same records obtained were revalidated by congruous records at the graduates' respective departments. Sources of the data/population were gained from the registration forms dully endorsed by the students at the time of admission as well as the convocation brochure which contained the list of those cleared and confirmed graduated at the end of the programme. Below, table 1 is the population of the study.

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Table 1: Population of M.Sc. Graduates of Public Administration in University of Abuja, (UNIABJ), Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki (ESUA) and Lead City University, Ibadan (LCDI)

<i>Name Of University</i>	<i>No. of Graduates In Pub. Admin In 2021</i>
<i>University of Abuja (UNIABJ)</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Lead City University, Ibadan</i>	<i>43</i>
Total	172

Sample Size Determination

This sample size consideration was guided by the percentage principle of 40% of the study population of 172 graduates which is 69 in the proportion of 33 participants from UNIABJ; 19 participants from ESUI, and 17 participants from LCUI. 95% was set as my confidence level with a margin of error put at 5% (see <http://research-advisors.com>.) for details.

Instrument for Data collection

Data collection instruments were interviews and documentary sources. Due to distance barrier and the need to cut down cost, I engaged two research Assistants (trusted/capable associates) – one from Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki and another from Lead City University, Ibadan. I personally handled University of Abuja where I functionally reside. On the interview aspect, we applied formless, open-ended interview procedure as a consistent

lead guiding all interviews carried out in this study. In order to enable researchers gain full access to the data set containing complete names, phone numbers and email addresses of the study participants, the research assistants and I followed due process mechanism/relevant protocols to liaise with the Deans/Secretaries, Schools of Post-Graduates Studies of the various universities concerned and obtained necessary approvals to access these named data set from their records. We also applied interview protocol which is one of the primary sources and means of data gathering in a qualitative study. These Interview methods comprise “emails, face to face, focus group, online focus group, video conference, synchronous chat, and telephone” (Onwuegbuzie et.al. (2012). See Table 2 below for the breakdown of number of questionnaire items sent, number returned and percentage of return.

Table 2: Number of questionnaires Distributed, Number returned and Percentage of Return

<i>Name of University</i>	<i>No. of Questionnaire Distributed</i>	<i>No. of Questionnaire Returned</i>	<i>Percentage of Questionnaire Returned</i>
<i>Univ. of Abuja</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>70%</i>
<i>Ebonyi State Univ., Abakaliki</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>68%</i>
<i>Lead City University, Ibadan</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>76%</i>
Total	69	47	77 %

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The above shows that interview data and personal reflection field reports were obtained from 69 research participants/graduates of public administration from selected Nigerian universities in 2023 (i.e. n=69).

Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

Content validity speaks to situations where data collection instrument appropriately answers stated research questions or accurately measures, according to (Nachmias et al., 2015), what it was projected to measure. The researcher ensured that all the instruments were uniform and they comprehensively addressed all the structures and peculiarities of the measuring instrument. During the time of developing the instrument, he ensured that uncertainties were removed; appropriate words and concepts were employed in order to achieve set goals. The researcher also evaluated the instrument for face validity through my personal assessment of the suitability of the instrument for answering my research questions

A class of content validity which is sampling validity, was achieved by incorporating all physiognomies of the population to see to it that every aspect of the areas under study was addressed by the instrument. The researcher also guaranteed sufficiency and efficiency of data collection instrument by making sure that the data collection instruments expedited the course of the data gathering to the point of redundancy, which meant that no fresh information would be helpful from supplementary data (Sim, Saunders, Waterfield & Kingstone (2018).

Method of Data Analysis

I collected all the data from the engaged research Assistants and employed the old but tested data reliable analysis processes encouraged by Moustakas (1994). This involves a seven-step improved Van Kaam analysis tactic which allows researchers to scrutinize textual data. The steps involved were as follows: 1. Enumerate in writing the

data so that they could be appropriately put in order. 2. Decrease and get rid of incessant themes. 3. Gather together leading part of the themes. 4. Scrutinize for outlines inconsistent from the interview transcript. 5. Evolve a well thought-out portrayal of experiences by each participant. 6. Create a well-ordered description arising from the textual data, and 7. Apply the distinct texturally structured demonstration of the data from the collective interviews.

An intelligible hand codes by means of letters and numbers to represent the topics as spot finder for stress-free retrieval and analysis was recognized and adopted (Creswell, 2019). I also re-counted the complete materials, such as transcripts from interviews, documents, and field notes, repetitively until I became absorbed in it and incorporated within themselves the spirit of the entire data. This process is what Creswell (2019) referred to as “reading and memoing”. While reading the manuscripts, I made reflective notes at the edge of the records and exactly brought out major findings in the form of memos. These comprised “short phrases, ideas, or key concepts that occur to the reader” (Creswell, 2019).

Five-step process through inductive coding (Creswell, J, W (2010), was adopted to migrate from coded units to higher depictions, categories and themes. These steps include: organizing the raw data files (i.e. data cleaning in order to format the data files in a stable order); reading the text exhaustively until the content becomes very familiar; creating groupings; overlapping codes or un-coding text as required by sustaining improvements of the categories, and seeking themes within each category.



Coding, Intra/inter coder reliability

Creswell (2018) describes codes as thoughts deriving from the data at conceptual level through a repetitive process. According to author, the codes are attained by employing continuous comparative approaches to provide clarifications and understanding of the research topic, namely “Dominant research method adopted by 2023 M.Sc. graduates of public administration in designated Nigerian universities and its implications for the practice of public administration”. Finally, I presented the

results to reflect what was proven from the data using figures, tables, matrices, among others, in order to make the analysis clear and expressive.

Intra and Inter-coder reliability process involves two or more coders involved in the repetitive exercise where “low agreement in a finite number of coding rounds” is corrected to give way to a more agreeable levels of inter-coder consistency (Onwuegbuzie et. al (2012). See table 3 below for research questions, categories of responses and no. of occurrence as well as emergent themes.

Table 3: Research Questions, Categories of Responses, Number of Occurrence, and Emergent Themes

Research Questions	Categories of Responses	No of Occurrence(s)	Emergent Themes
<i>RQ1</i>	<i>Dominant research Method adopted.</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Quantitative method, Qualitative method, Mixed methods.</i>
<i>RQ2</i>	<i>Problems with adopting unsuitable methods</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>Obtaining responsive and reliable data to guide decision making. Obtaining irresponsive and unreliable data to guide decision making.</i>
<i>RQ3</i>	<i>Recommendations towards Ameliorating the problems arising from adopting unsuitable methods</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Teaching of appropriate research processes in public administration and promotion of same; No teaching of appropriate research processes in public administration and no promotion of same; Compliance with the ethical procedures of qualitative objectivity and reliability; No compliance with the ethical procedures of qualitative objectivity and reliability.</i>



Findings of the Interviews

Theme 1: Most Adopted Research Method

The results arrived at from the theoretical synopses of the “dominant research method adopted by the graduates of public administration in designated Nigerian universities in 2023 and its implications for the practice of public administration” (see Table 4) below which bothered on participants' replies to research question one

(RQ1). The study participants mentioned the above theme “dominant research method” 30 times in their responses to questions as shown in Table 4. Based on the coded responses of the study participants and the sub-themes that emerged (i.e. Quantitative method, Qualitative method, Mixed methods), the frequency of responses was calculated to determine the overriding response.

Table 4 Frequency of Responses to Dominant Research Method

<i>Subtheme Occurrence</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>% of frequency of</i>
<i>Quantitative</i>	23	77
<i>Qualitative</i>	4	14
<i>Mixed methods</i>	3	9
<i>Total</i>	30	100

Note. N = frequency

Emergent Theme 2: Problems of Adopting Inappropriate Research Methods.

The results interpreted from the theoretical reviews of the implications of “adopting inappropriate research method” by the graduates of public administration in designated Nigerian universities in 2023 and its implications for the practice of public administration (see Table 5) below centred on participants' responses to the research

question two (RQ2). The study participants cited the above theme 35 times in their answers to questions as indicated in Table 5. Based on the coded responses of the study participants and the sub-themes that emerged in Table 5 above, the frequency of responses was calculated to determine the dominant response.

Table 5

Frequency of Responses to Implications of Adopting Inappropriate Research Methods.

<i>Subtheme</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>% of frequency of Occurrence</i>
<i>Obtaining responsive and reliable data to guide decision-making</i>	10	29
<i>Obtaining irresponsive and unreliable data to guide decision-making.</i>	26	71
<i>Total</i>	36	100



Note. N = frequency

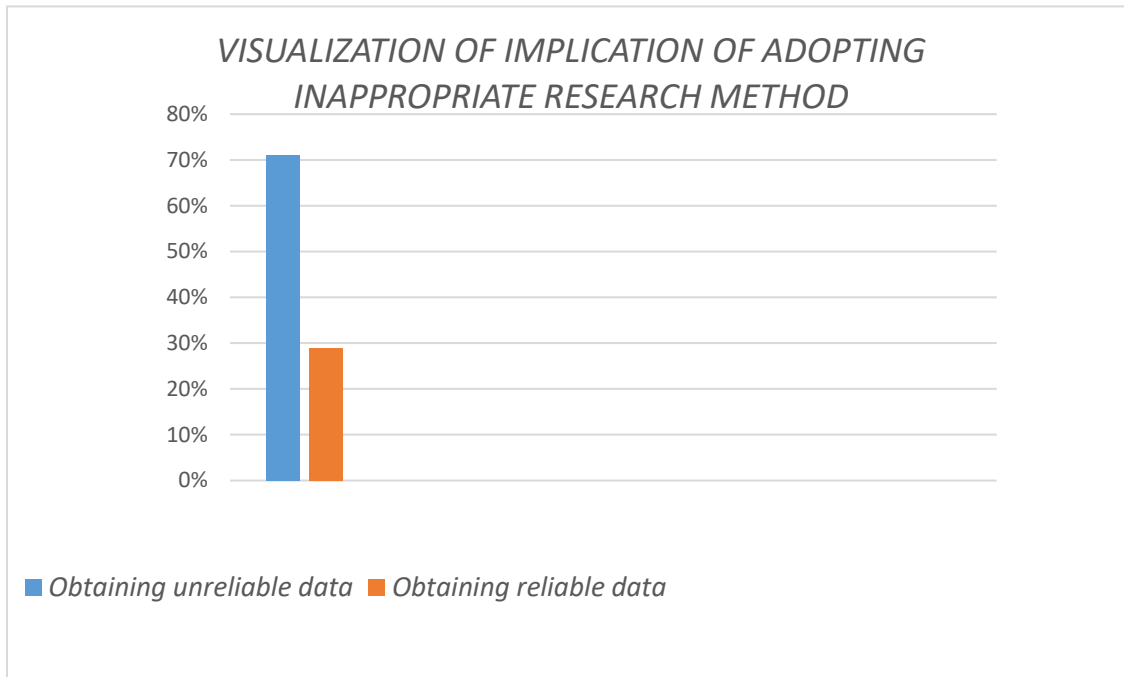


Figure 1: Visualization of implications of Adopting Inappropriate Research Methods

Emergent Theme 3: Ameliorating the problems of inappropriate Methods

The participant responses to research question 3 (RQ3) bothering on how can the problems of employing inappropriate method in conducting research in public administration be ameliorated yielded 8 subthemes thus: Increased teaching of appropriate research processes in public administration and promotion of same; No increased teaching of appropriate research processes in public administration and no promotion of same. Strict adherence to scientific research approaches; No strict adherence to scientific

research approaches; Compliance with the ethical procedures of qualitative objectivity and reliability; No compliance with the ethical procedures of qualitative objectivity and reliability (see Table 6) below. The study participants mentioned the above theme 24 times in their responses to questions as indicated in Table 6. Based on the coded responses of the study participants and the sub-themes that emerged in the referenced table, the frequency of responses was calculated to determine the leading response.

Table 6: Frequency of Responses to Ameliorating the Challenges of inappropriate method

Subtheme	N	% of frequency of Occurrence
Teaching of appropriate research processes in public administration; Strict adherence to scientific research approaches; Compliance with the ethical procedures of qualitative objectivity and reliability;	18	75
No teaching of appropriate research		

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<i>processes in public administration; No strict adherence to scientific research approaches; No compliance with the ethical procedures of qualitative objectivity and reliability; and no promotion of same</i>	6	25
Total	24	100

Note. N = frequency

Summary of Emergent Themes/ Result of the Findings

From the array of data presented above, the study reveals as follows:

1. That the most adopted research method by 2023 M.Sc. graduates of public administration in selected Nigerian universities is quantitative research method.
2. That the implications of adopting inappropriate research methods by 2023 M.Sc. graduates of public administration graduates in designated Nigerian universities is obtaining irresponsive and unreliable data to guide decision-making.
3. That the problems arising from adopting inappropriate research method could be ameliorated through increased teaching of appropriate research processes in public administration, strict adherence to scientific research approaches and compliance with the ethical procedures of qualitative objectivity and reliability.

Research questions: Note that in each research question, the result of the study was established by juxtaposing the research findings against the particular research questions. For example, **Research question one asked:** “Quantitative research method was the dominant research method adopted by public administration graduates of designated Nigerian universities in 2023”. From available result as shown in Table 4 above, out of 36 participants, 21 participants representing 67% responded that they adopted quantitative research method for their

projects in 2023; while a 9 of them or 25% adopted qualitative research method, and 6 participants or 17% adopted mixed methods research. “Quantitative research method” occurred 23 times in the frequency of coding categories; “qualitative research method” had 4 mentions in the coding categories while mixed methods had 3. The implication of the findings is that research question one is proven as stated, that is, that quantitative research method was the leading research method adopted by Public administration graduates in selected Nigerian Universities in 2023.

Research question two asked: “What are the problems associated with adopting unsuitable research method by public administration graduates of selected Nigerian universities in 2023? From the findings contained in Table 5, 25 participants out of 36 in all, representing 69% responded that adopting inappropriate research method leads to obtaining irresponsive and unreliable data to guide for decision making, while 11 participants or 31% responded otherwise. The theme: “Obtaining irresponsive and unreliable data to guide decision-making” had 25 mentions in the frequency of coding categories while the opposite theme: “Obtaining responsive and reliable data to guide decision-making” had 11 mentions in the coding categories. Going by the evidenced facts contained in Table 5 above and histogram visual display of data in Figure 1 above, the research is proven in the affirmative; i.e. that the problem associated

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with adopting unsuitable research method is that it leads to obtaining irresponsible and unreliable data for decision making,

Research question three asked: “What are your recommendations towards solving the problems arising from of adopting unsuitable research method? Judging from the research findings contained in Table 6 above, 28 respondents representing 78% indicated that “Promotion and increased teaching of appropriate research processes in public administration; strict adherence to scientific research approaches; Compliance with the ethical procedures of qualitative objectivity and reliability. However, 8 respondents representing 22% recommended as follow: “No promotion and increased teaching of appropriate research processes in public administration; No strict adherence to scientific research approaches; No compliance with the ethical procedures of qualitative objectivity and reliability. Based on the above evaluated results as established in respect of research question 3 above, “Promotion and increased teaching of appropriate research processes in public administration; strict adherence to scientific research approaches; Compliance with the ethical procedures of qualitative objectivity and reliability; were collectively upheld as the dominant and responsive answer.

Implications for Practice

Having so far established the dominant research method implemented by 2023 M.Sc. graduates of Public Administration in Nigerian Universities, the problems associated with adopting unsuitable research method and the recommendations towards solving the problems associated with adopting unsuitable research method, the next challenge of this paper is to discuss the implications of the results/findings for the practice of the science of public administration.

Sileyew, K. J. (2019) empirically established that social and behavioral sciences such as public administration, among others, whose philosophical underpinnings involve, in the main, human peculiarities - behaviors, attitudes, sentiments, biases and prejudices etc. – are better investigated through the qualitative tradition or via the mixed methods approach which draws its strength from both research approaches. Atkinson, (2021) states that applying qualitative paradigm is advisable if one wishes to gain understanding of a phenomenon (concepts, thoughts, experiences, etc.) while quantitative method is better applied to test hypotheses or arrive at numerical data. From this premise, qualitative tradition appears to be a more fitting approach to adopt in investigating concomitant administrative matters that are by nature value-laden.

Area for Further Study

After a critical analysis of the above reviewed literature as well as the findings of this study, it appears from the experience that research methodology in public administration is delicate and not-clear-cut operation. Noteworthy is the fact that ambiguity exists about the standards that research in the field should meet. It also appears there is no available robust template to guide practitioners. The language of the positivist researchers does not approximate the same meaning in qualitative paradigm. The terms “reliability” and “validity” in quantitative tradition have equivalents (not actual terms) in qualitative paradigm such as “Credibility”, transferability, dependability “trustworthiness” and “authenticity”. The processes of validating research findings, the practice of epoché to avoid bias as well as the reliance on inductive reasoning as a tactic in qualitative research, need foundational specifics and validation. Therefore, this paper recommends for a “**consolidation**” study to



establish standard and thorough going research practices across all archetypes/paradigms but with particular reference to public administration so that we can establish a field with a rock-hard research base and a true science of managing and administering the public.

Conclusion

Adopted research methodology can have a significant impact on the outcome of a study as it is critical in ensuring the legitimacy, dependability, and generalizability of

research findings. It encompasses a wide range of techniques and procedures, including research design, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation of results. Without a clear and well-defined research methodology, researchers run the risk of producing results that are erroneous, unreliable or biased. No research method is a fit-for-all-problems; the approaches are chosen purposefully depending on the nature of the problem. Appropriate research method is a sine qua non for research success.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

The author hereby asserts that there is no conflict of interest with any party.

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APPENDIX A

Methodical/Orientation Differences between and among the Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Method Approaches

Note: The mixed methods research is an approach whereupon the researcher gather and

	<i>Quantitative Research Method</i>	<i>Qualitative Research Method</i>
1.	<i>Quantitative data are usually rendered in numbers</i>	<i>Qualitative data are usually rendered in words</i>
2.	<i>Quantitative investigation is hypothetic-deductive. (testing hypotheses through experiment)</i>	<i>Qualitative investigation is normally inductive. (Uses specific observations deduction to draw general conclusions)</i>
3.	<i>Quantitative research is usually carried out under controlled situations.</i>	<i>Qualitative research naturally occurs and within context.</i>
4.	<i>Quantitative research usually isolate operationalized variable.</i>	<i>Qualitative research takes a holistic view of the phenomenon of interest.</i>
5.	<i>Quantitative research lays emphasis on objectivity.</i>	<i>Qualitative research thrives in subjectivity.</i>
6.	<i>Quantitative research lays much emphasis on predictions and explanations.</i>	<i>Qualitative research emphasizes description, exploration, and search for emerging meanings.</i>
7.	<i>Quantitative researcher involves in directing, manipulating, and controlling.</i>	<i>Qualitative researcher involves in participation and collaboration.</i>
8.	<i>The quantitative research is concerned about statistical analysis.</i>	<i>Qualitative researcher is concerned about text analysis</i>
9	<i>The general framework seeks to confirm hypotheses about phenomena</i>	<i>The general framework Seeks to explore phenomena</i>
10	<i>In the general framework, instruments use more rigid style in eliciting and categorizing responses to questions</i>	<i>In the general framework, instruments use more flexible iterative style of eliciting and categorizing responses to questions</i>

Mixed

Note: Mixed method approach examines both qualitative and quantitative data within the same particular study.

Source:

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