

Methodology

The research was undertaken using an exploratory case study approach. This approach was adopted as it allows the researcher to study a contemporary phenomenon in depth in its natural context, Yin (2009). As suggested by Swanborn (2010) the ability to study the phenomenon in its natural surrounding means that the researcher does not remove the participants from their normal life situation thus allowing the researcher to focus on social interactions and the meanings that are developed by participants. Simons (2009) contends the thorough description and interpretation of procedures as they occur in context can ascertain elements crucial in the implementation of a programme or policy. Critics of the case study point to its lack of objectivity and generalizability. Simons (2009) argues that case study researchers do not seek to be objective suggesting it is the interaction between the researcher and the object of investigation that leads to the discovery of deeper meaning. Lincoln and Guba (1979) question the relevance of law like generalizations in social science while Stake (1978) and Simons (2009) respectively argue that the investigation of the particular is a key strength of case study research. Stake (1978) defines “naturalistic generalization” (p. 22) as a thorough knowledge of the particular and the ability to apply it to new contexts while Simons (2009) contends that particularisation provides a vivid depiction of a single context that informs practice and adds knowledge to a specific topic. Stake (1978) acknowledges that where the subject of investigation is propositional knowledge or the law the case study is at a disadvantage, however where the aim is an understanding and broadening experience the disadvantage fades away.

Query As part of the methodology is it necessary to address the philosophical stance of the researcher