

Participant Observation

Introduction:

Participant observation is the recording of observation while taking part in ongoing activities, that is, the researcher takes on the role being studied.

Participant observation is a part of qualitative research!!

Participant observation requires the researcher to join the group being investigated/studied so that they may get a deeper understanding of what is being researched. Participant observations can be either cover or overt. Covert is where the study is carried out 'under cover'. The researcher's real identity and purpose are kept concealed from the group being studied, that is, the researcher takes a false identity and role, usually posing as a genuine member of the group. On the other hand, overt is where the researcher reveals his or her true identity and purpose to the group and asks permission to observe.

The video below gives a comprehensive explanation of participant observation. It defines it, provides example and explain the benefits of using it in qualitative research.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAkP9bFXzA&feature=emb_logo