

Appreciative Inquiry, Sequential Transformative Mixed method, Knowledge and Attitude of antimicrobial Resistance amongst Community Pharmacists in Thailand

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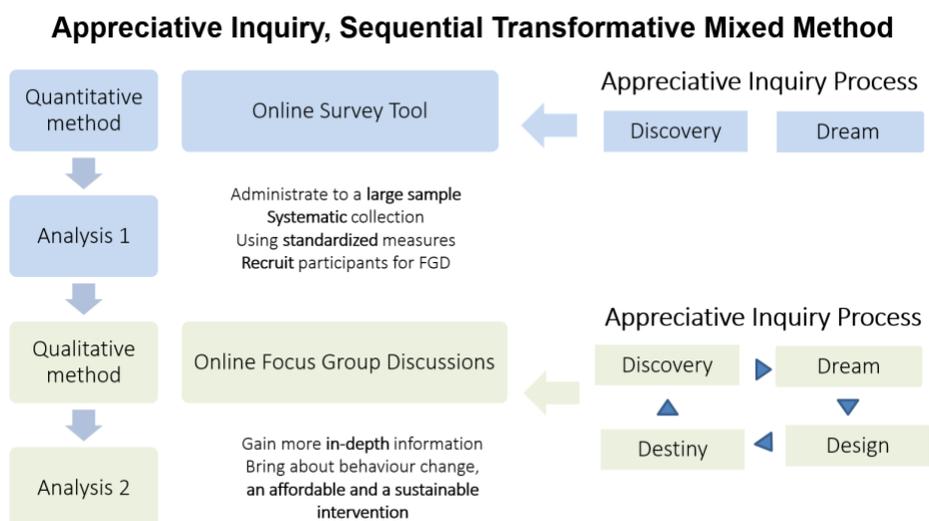
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Abstract

Fighting Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the Global South has been challenged by multi-dimensional. Geographic, economic development, and antimicrobial legislation such as antibiotics dispensing without a prescription by community pharmacists have directly influenced the extent of AMR. The crucial step is understanding determinants affecting the attitude and behaviour of community pharmacists in antibiotic dispensing/prescribing in Thailand. Appreciative inquiry (AI) is a valuable theory in exploring the positive aspects of current antibiotic prescribing to changing engaging to combat AMR.

The research aims to apply the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) theory to understand determinants affecting the attitude and behaviour of antibiotic dispensing/prescribing and to determine solutions to promote antibiotic smart use amongst community pharmacists. A mixed-method was started using an online survey developed and validated before disseminating via social media using a non-probability sample of part- and full-time practicing community pharmacists across the country. A qualitative part using virtual focus group discussions (FGDs) was followed by systematically recruiting and inviting survey respondents who are voluntary and eligible. Quantitative data using descriptive and inferential statistics and qualitative data using thematic analysis were performed.



The survey showed validity and reliability. Dissemination of a link of the survey demonstrated representation of the community pharmacist population in all regions of Thailand. Respondents were 387 eligible and completed the survey. The community pharmacists have a very good knowledge of antibiotic resistance and an acceptable attitude towards the actual experiences in antibiotic prescribing practices. Many significant factors illustrated a positive correlation to attitudes that are postgraduate education, preceptors, clerkship, and antimicrobial stewardship training and resources. The two focus group discussions (FGDs) were carried out with 10 and 11 participants, respectively. Data analysis of the FGDs has been conducting in the process.

We illustrate an innovative approach using AI theory. The highlights are the first nationwide mixed-method to provide contextual data on the association of part and full-time practicing community pharmacists' knowledge of antibiotic resistance and attitudes towards current prescribing/dispensing practices by community pharmacists in Thailand. In addition, AI allowed us to offer the solutions proposed by the community pharmacists to take into account their role in rational antimicrobial dispensing and prescription.

Keywords: antimicrobial resistance; Appreciative Inquiry; community pharmacist; mixed method