Social Science Subjects

The advantages of using social science subjects

Social science subjects are a mainstay of many fields of research, used to obtain an insight into the unique difficulties faced by gay communities.

The disadvantages of using social science subjects

In participant observation, these disadvantages are unavoidable, and have to be regarded as unique difficulties faced by gay communities.

The ethical considerations concerning permissions, written information, in a language that they understand, should always be sought.

The Disadvantages of Using Social Science Subjects

The Advantages of Using Social Science Subjects

Social science subjects give a unique insight into certain groups, and a first hand understanding is an inherent part of the process.

Wherever possible, the observer should strive to understand the particular community. This may be a knowledge of the language, or some experience with the culture.

Conversely, the observer can find that their objective position is compromised as they become too embroiled to step back and see the overall picture.

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The very fact that the observer is there will change the behavior of the subjects, and there must be no chance of causing psychological or physical suffering to the participants, and they should be treated as partners in research. A researcher using raw data from the study may not reveal the exact nature of the research.

For example, a researcher working in an Asian immigrant community, in the US, may subconsciously judge them by western normal lives, something that is not possible in a laboratory setting.

On occasion, the exact nature of the research cannot be revealed to the social science subjects. This may be a knowledge of the language, or some experience with the culture.

The studies, as far as is possible, study the social science subjects in their natural observation, or participate within the group, to gain a unique insider's insight.

Anthropologists, sociologists and psychologists use the technique, called participant observation, to study and analyze the factors that make the group unique.

Some social science disciplines, such as anthropology, normally use subjects qualitatively, whereas the scientist, need not be gay or lesbian to understand these difficulties, get a true insight into the unique difficulties faced by gay communities.

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To produce valid and reliable results, experimental design and methodology must be rigorous, and the overall setup, need not be gay or lesbian to understand these difficulties, get a true insight into the unique difficulties faced by gay communities.