

LET – Maths, Stats & Numeracy

Types of Data

1. QUALITATIVE VS. QUANTITATIVE

- Qualitative data:
 - (1) Concerned with understanding behaviour from informants perspective.
 - (2) Data collected from participant observations and interviews.
 - (3) Data reported in the language of informant.
- Quantitative data:
 - (1) Concerned with discovering facts about phenomena.
 - (2) Assumes a fixed measurable reality.
 - (3) Data is analysis through numerical methods and statistical inference.

2. TYPES OF DATA

- **Scale:** This comes in two forms;
 - (1) **Interval:** In SPSS this is part of the scale measurement. With this kind of data we have a natural ordering of intervals and we know the difference between each interval is the same.
 - For example degrees celcius.
 - (2) **Ratio:** Also part of scale measure in SPSS. This is the same as interval data except it has a natural zero.
 - For example your age in years.
- **Nominal:** This is where the data is divided into different categories and there is no ranking between categories.
 - For example the hand you write with is an example of nominal data. You either fall in the category of right handed people or left handed people.
- **Ordinal:** This is where data is divided into categories and there is a ranking between them (however you cannot say the difference between each category is equal).
 - For example the order in which people finish a race.