

Report on Knowledge Workshop on "The Method of Qualitative Content Analysis of Religious Texts" by Vice-Chancellor for Research and Technology

The seminar on "Content Analysis of Qualitative Texts of Religious Texts", specifically for faculty members and visiting professors, was held at the University of Islamic Denominations on Sunday, October 20, 2019. The workshop was organized in two parts by Dr. Hojjat al-Islam Dr. Hossein Bostan (Academic Member of the Department of Sociology, Institute of Research, University) and Dr. Neda maleki (Vice-Chancellor for Research and Technology).

In the first part, Dr. Bostan outlined the theoretical and methodological foundations of the Grounded Theory, defining generalities, introducing inductive and deductive content analysis techniques, and the purpose of using this method in research , and then answering questions. The participants outlined theoretical issues related to the application of qualitative methods in religious and Islamic studies.

Following the workshop, Dr. Maleki, Vice chancellor of Research and Technology at the Islamic Denominations University, stated that the qualitative research method generally refers to any type of research whose findings have not been obtained through statistical processes with quantification purposes. The method begins with asking questions about the research topic but does not emphasize specific variables.

Dr. Maleki noted: Qualitative research has many methods that are selected based on the goals pursued by the research. These goals can be exploratory, descriptive, explanatory or predictive.

He added: One of the guiding principles of conducting qualitative research is the Gronded Theory, or QMD. Underlying theory is the discovery and extraction of theory from data that have been systematically collected and analyzed during the research process. The underlying theory is both a tool for theory building and a set of techniques for doing Qualitative research.

The vice Chancellor of research and technology at the Islamic Denominations University said: The sources of data collection in Gronded Theory are divided into two main categories: 1- Initial sources including interviews (which are often recorded), 2- Participatory and non-participatory observation. Recordings of interviews can be done through non-technical literature, including biographies, diaries, documents, recordings, reports, and even letters from individuals, but the

researcher can use these resources in combination to collect data.

He added: For example, in my doctoral dissertation, the sources of data collection were selected according to the major goal of the research, which was to extract the characteristics of Iranian-Islamic balance family, the Holy Quran, Shiite and Sunni traditions and the books of the sire of Ahl al-Bayt. Then based on grounded theory techniques in three stages of open, axial and selective coding, these indices were extracted. The process was carried out using software (MAX Q DA 11) and its validity was measured by face validity method and finally the Islamic Balance Family Model was extracted from the data obtained from religious texts.

"The purpose of this workshop is to introduce Grounded Theory as a structured and systematic way of applying it to Islamic and religious studies," said Dr. Maleki.

