advanced countries, and most of the jobs created in these countries, which are the result of entrepreneurial thinking, come from people in this field (Hosseinpour, 2011, 47). In fact, the key role and position of humanities in the development, evolution or transformation of human societies is undeniable (Qanbarlu, 2020, 176). Unfortunately, humanities are not given much value in Iran and a majority of students and graduates in this field have a lower employment rate. For example, according to the university graduate employment monitoring plan (2019), the most employment is in technical fields (such as computer, electrical engineering, accounting, agricultural and architecture engineering) and the least employment in humanities fields (especially history, Qur'anic sciences, theology and sociology) and basic sciences. Therefore, humanities and their graduates are either isolated or are in a problematic state. Considering the importance of this field in the country's growth and development, the employability of its graduates is an issue that should be the main focus of policymakers in the knowledge-based economy. In fact, based on this topic and possible changes in the future, the current research can lead analysts to appropriate direction to achieve desirable results, and with a new definition of the problem and a futuristic perspective, suitable, scientific and practical solutions would help improve this situation.

METHODOLOGY

The present research is qualitative based on an interpretive paradigm, aiming to describe and interpret the employment status of graduates in humanities fields. It seeks to provide an analysis of the current situation and transitional mechanisms to reach the desired level. The data were collected through semi-structured interviews, for which, questions were designed based on the interview protocol, literature review, postal technique, and WIH5 questions. Further, the questions were designed in a way to inquire about the employment status of humanities graduates over the next 20 years. The research population consisted of professors and experts in various humanities fields. The sampling method was purposive non-homogeneous (non-homogeneity in field of study, gender, occupation, etc.), meaning that units of research were purposefully selected for knowledge acquisition and data collection. In this research, interviews reached the saturation level with 16 participants, but to ensure further confidence, it continued until 20 participants. In the next phase, thematic analysis and layer analysis methods were used to extract themes and delve deeper. Finally, the research findings were discussed and examined.