



Mahatma Gandhi Central University

School of Humanities & Languages

Department of Sanskrit

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SUB-TITLE : RESEARCH DESIGN

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Definition of Research

- Research means a search for facts- answers to questions and solutions to problems. It is an purposive investigation.
- It is an “organized inquiry.” It seeks to find explanations to unexplained phenomenon, to clarify the doubtful propositions and to correct the misconceived facts.
- Kerlinger defines research as a “systematic, controlled, empirical and critical investigation of hypothetical propositions about the presumed relations among the natural phenomenon.”

- ▶ Research is a systematic and critical investigation into phenomenon.
- ▶ It adopts scientific method i.e. based on observable experience or empirical evidence.
- ▶ Research is directed towards finding answers to the pertinent questions and solutions to problems.
- ▶ It emphasizes the development of generalization, principles or theories.

- ▶ It is not mere compilation but a purposive investigation.
- ▶ It aims at describing, interpreting and explaining a phenomenon.
- ▶ It is objective and logical. It applies possible tests to validate the measuring tools and the conclusions obtained.

Characteristics of Research

1. Clarity

Clarity is the most important quality of any research topic. The topic should have to be clear so that others can easily understand the nature of your research. The research topic should have a single interpretation so that people cannot get distracted. The topic should have to be very clear in your mind so that you can properly undertake it. The research topic should have to be free of any ambiguity. Clarity also means that the research topic should have to be directional and it should set the whole research methodology.

2. Well-defined

Well-phrased research topic is a half guarantee of a successful research. Sometimes researchers phrase the research topic in such a way that it gives a double-barreled impression. The research topic should have to be well-defined and well-phrased and it should have to be easy to understand. it should have a single meaning.

3. The language

The language of the research topic should have to be simple. One should use technical terms only when it is necessary, otherwise use simple words so that everyone can understand it. keep the ethics of writing in your mind to avoid any unethical term or sentence. Do not introduce any sort of bias directly or indirectly, willingly or unwillingly in the research problem or research topic.

4. Current importance

Current importance should also be the consideration of the researcher while selecting a research topic. An obsolete topic will not be beneficial for anyone the topic should have current importance. You should also assess how much the topic will provide benefit to the field in which you are conducting the study.

5. Reliability

Reliability is a subjective term which can not be measured precisely but today there are instruments which can *estimate* the reliability of any research. Reliability is the repeatability of any research, research instrument, tool or procedure. If any research yields similar results each time it is undertaken with similar population and with similar procedures, it is called to be a reliable research.

Suppose a research is conducted on the effects of separation between parents on class performance of the children. If the results conclude that separation causes low grades in class, these results should have to be reliable for another sample taken from similar population. More the results are similar; more reliability is present in the research.

6. Validity

Validity is the strength with which we can call a research conclusions, assumptions or propositions true or false. Validity determines the applicability of research . Validity of the research instrument can be defined as the suitability of the research instrument to the research problem or how accurately the instrument measures the problem. Some researchers say that validity and reliability are co-related but validity is much more important than reliability. Without validity research goes in the wrong direction. To keep the research on-track define your concepts in the best possible manner so that no error occur during measurement.

7. Accuracy

Accuracy is also the degree to which each research process, instrument and tool is related to each other. Accuracy also measures whether research tools have been selected in best possible manner and research procedures suits the research problem or not. For example if a research has to be conducted on the trans-gender people, several data collection tools can be used depending on the research problems but if you find that population less cooperative the best way is to observe them rather than submitting questionnaire because in questionnaire either they will give biased responses or they will not return the questionnaires at all. So choosing the best data collection tool improves the accuracy of research.

8. Credibility

Credibility comes with the use of best source of information and best procedures in research. If you are using second-hand information in your research due to any reason your research might complete in less time but its credibility will be at stake because secondary data has been manipulated by human beings and is therefore not very valid to use in research. A certain percentage of secondary data can be used if primary source is not available but basing a research completely on secondary data when primary data can be gathered is least credible. When researcher give accurate references in research the credibility of research increases but fake references also decrease the credibility of research.

9. Generalizability

Generalizability is the extent to which a research findings can be applied to larger population. When a researcher conducts a study he/she chooses a target population and from this population he takes a small sample to conduct the research. This sample is representative of the whole population so the findings should also be. If research findings can be applied to any sample from the population, the results of the research are said to be generalizable.

10. Empirical

Empirical nature of research means that the research has been conducted following rigorous scientific methods and procedures. Each step in the research has been tested for accuracy and is based on real life experiences. Quantitative research is more easy to prove scientifically than qualitative research. In qualitative research biases and prejudice are easy to occur.

11. Systematic

Systematic approach is the only approach for research. No research can be conducted haphazardly. Each step must follow other. There are set of procedures that have been tested over a period of time and are thus suitable to use in research. Each research therefore should follow a procedure.

12. Controlled-

Controlled in real life experience there are many factors that effect an outcome. A single event is often result of several factors. When similar event is tested in research, due to the broader nature of factors that effect that event, some factors are taken as controlled factors while others are tested for possible effect. The controlled factors or variables should have to be controlled rigorously. In pure sciences it is very easy to control such elements because experiments are conducted in laboratory but in social sciences it becomes difficult to control these factors because of the nature of research.

Conclusion

- ▶ Designing a research is a scientific strategy with complete hypothetical outcome that specifies the methods and analyze the needed information for concrete outcome.
- ▶ It attempts to make a strategy for collecting data from scattered sources of knowledge.
- ▶ It offers the scheme to respond the research question(s).
- ▶ It makes a researcher to one's own subjectivities and avoid bias that may affect the outcomes.

Suggested Readings:

- Research Methodology, Methods and Techniques, C.R.Kothari, New Age International Publishers, 1990
- Manen, M. van. (1990). Researching lived experience: Human science for an action sensitive pedagogy. New York, NY: State University of New York. Messer, S. B., Sass, L. A., & Woolfolk, R. L. (1988).
- Introduction to hermeneutics. In Hermeneutics and psychological theory: Interpretive perspectives in personality, psychotherapy, and psychopathology (pp. 2- 26). New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. Moustakas, C. (1994).
- Human science perspectives and models. In Phenomenological research methods (pp. 1-24). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. Romanyshyn, R. (2007).



Thank You