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## Welcome to Review Of Research

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## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTION

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### Abstract:-

#### 1) Meaning of Research

Research in the common parlance refers to a search for knowledge. One can also define research as a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic. In fact, research is an art of scientific investigation.

Research is an academic activity and as such the term should be used in a technical sense. Research is, thus, an original contribution to the existing stock of knowledge making for its advancement. It is the pursuit of truth with the help of study, observation, comparison and experiment. In short, the search for knowledge through objective and systematic method of finding solutions to a problem is a search. The systematic approach concerning generalisation and the formulation of a theory is also research.

**Keywords:** Research Methodology , academic activity , scientific and systematic search .

### INTRODUCTION

#### 2) DEFINITION OF RESEARCH

**A broad definition of research is given by:**

- i) Martin Shuttle worth - "In the broadest sense of the word, the definition of research includes any gathering of data, information and facts for the advancement of knowledge."
- ii) Creswell who states - "Research is a process of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase our understanding of a topic or issue". It consists of three steps: Pose a question, collect data to answer the question, and present an answer to the question.
- iii) The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines research in more detail as "a studious inquiry or examination; especially : investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws"

#### 3) OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

The purpose of research is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures. The main aim of research is to find out the truth which is hidden and which has not been discovered as yet. Though each research study has its own specific purpose, we may think of research objectives as falling into a number of following broad groupings:

- 1) To gain familiarity with a phenomenon or to achieve new insights into it (studies with this object in view are termed as exploratory or formulative research studies)
- 2) To portray accurately the characteristics of a particular individual, situation or a group (studies with this object in view are known as descriptive research studies)
- 3) To determine the frequency with which something occurs or with which it is associated with something else (studies with this object in view are known as diagnostic research studies)
- 4) To test a hypothesis of a causal relationship between variables (such studies are known as hypothesis-testing research studies).

#### 4) RESEARCH PROCESS



Research Methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done. In it we study the research methods concerned with the collection of data, adopted by a researcher during the course of studying the research problem, along with social significance touching an important aspect of advanced or developing society.

The task choosing sample size is hard when an individual researcher undertakes the research project.

There is usually a trade – off between the desirability of a large Sample and the feasibility of a small one.

The ideal sample is large enough to serve as an adequate representation of the population about which the researcher wishes to generalize and small enough to be selected economically – in terms of subject availability and expense in both time and money. There is no fixed number or percentage of subjects that determines the size of an adequate sample.

It may depend on the nature of the population of interest or the data to gathered and analysed.

A national opinion poll randomly selects a sample of about 1,500 Subjects as a reflection of the opinion of a population of more than 150 millions United States citizen of voting age.

Best and Khan in their book Research in Education have justified that “Samples of 30 or more are usually considered large samples and those with fewer than 30, small samples.

“Further, they have also stated that, samples that are larger than Necessary can produce problems. Too large a sample results in higher than required costs and can result in an ethical concern because the science of the research will not be improved by having more than the necessary number of subjects, some persons may be taking the time to participate and possibly placing themselves at some risk (e.g. embarrassment) with no benefit the research. Large sample also create administrative and logistic problems.”

Therefore, the size of sample should neither be excessively large nor too small. It should be optimum. An optimum sample is one, which fulfil the Requirements of efficiency representative ness, reliability and Flexibility. Finally, what is important is the care with which the sample is selected. The ideal method is random selection, letting chance or the laws of Probability determine which members of the population are to be Selected. In ‘random’ sampling or ‘chance’ sampling. Every item of the universe has an equal chance of inclusion in the sample.

C.R.Kothari in his book Research Methodology (2008) has justified, Random Sampling ensures the law of statistics regulatory which states that if on us average the sample will have the same Composition and characteristics as the universe. This is the reason why random sampling is considered as the best technique of selecting a representative sample.

To recapitulate thus, sample refers to that universe, which is selected for the purpose of investigation on the basis of the sample, we attempt to draw inference concerning the universe. As a general rule, the sample must be of an optimum size i.e. it should neither be excessively large nor too small. A large sample is one that includes 30 or more items, where as a small sample is one in which the number of items is fewer than so random sampling is the most ideal mattered of selecting a sample as each item of the universe has an equal chance of being included in the sample.

Ranjit Kumar in his book Research Methodology has justified research is a structured inquiry that utilizes acceptance scientific methodology to solve problems and create new knowledge that is generally applicable.

## 5) CONCLUSION

Research is, thus, an original contribution to the existing stock of knowledge making for its advancement. As such the term ‘research’ refers to the systematic method consisting of enunciating the problem, formulating a hypothesis, collecting the facts or data, analysing the facts reaching certain conclusions either in the form of solutions towards the concerned problem or in certain generalizations for some theoretical formulation.

- i) Good research is systematic
- ii) Good research is logical
- iii) Good research is empirical

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