

Research and Its Types

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Abstract

Literally speaking , a research is all about scientific exploration of the truth by conducting a thorough search and study again and again until and unless knowledge related to the field gets developed in a specific new angle or the problem raised by the research statement gets solved . However , research is of various types depending upon the subjects or stream or field of study. For example, any piece of literary work has analytical research , action research is meant for the implementation of some plans for the betterment of any system etc. this present research paper is all about the types of different kinds of research with all its different aspects

Keyword : Research, knowledge, problem, findings etc.

Full Paper

Research comprises of creative works undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge including the knowledge of humans, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge is to devise new applications. It is used to establish or confirm facts, reaffirm the results of previous work, solve new or existing problems, support theorems, or develop new theories. The word 'research' is derived from the Middle French *recherche*, which means "to go about seeking", the term itself being derived from the Old French term *recherchier* a compound word from "re-" + "cerchier", or "sercher", meaning 'search' .

The earliest recorded use of the term was in 1577. Research has been defined in a number of different ways.

A broad definition of research is given by A. Hoffman: "In the broadest sense of the word, the definition of research includes any gathering of data, information, and facts for the advancement of knowledge."(4)

Another definition of research is given by John W. Creswell who states that 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 (5).

H. Karadefines 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).

Research can be classified in many different ways on the basis of the methodology of research, the knowledge it creates, the user group, the research problem it investigates etc., Some well-considered researches are as follows :

Basic Research

Basic research is conducted largely for the enhancement of knowledge and is a research which does not have immediate commercial potential. The research which is done for human welfare, animal welfare and plant kingdom welfare. It is called basic, pure, fundamental research. The main motivation here is to expand man's knowledge, not to create or invent something. Basic Research is designed to add to an organized body of scientific knowledge and does not necessarily produce results of immediate practical value.

Such a research is time and cost intensive.

Applied Research

Applied research is designed to solve practical problems of the modern world, rather than to acquire knowledge for knowledge's sake. The goal of applied research is to improve the hu-

man condition. It focuses on analysis and solving social and real life problems. This research is generally conducted on a large scale basis and is expensive. As such, it is often conducted with the support of some financing agency like the national government, public corporation, WorldBank, UNICEF, UGC etc. Applied Research is an investigation for ways of using scientific knowledge to solve practical problems. For example:- to improve agriculture ,crop production, treat or cure a specific disease, improve the energy efficiency of homes, offices, how can communication among workers in large companies be improved? Tis can be an angle of research. Applied research can be further classified as problem oriented and problem solving research.

Historical Research

Historical research describes what was. The process involves investigating, recording, analyzing and interpreting the events of the past for the purpose of discovering generalizations that are helpful in understanding the past and the present and, to a limited extent, in anticipating the future.

Descriptive Research

Descriptive research uses quantitative methods to describe what is, describing, recording, analyzing, and interpreting the conditions that exists. It involves some type of comparison or contrast and attempt to discover relationships between existing non-manipulated variables. Some form of statistical analysis is used to describe the results of the study.

Experimental Research

Experimental research describes what will be when certain variables are carefully controlled or manipulated. The focus is on variable relationships. As defined here, deliberate manipulation is always a part of the experimental method.

Action Research

Action research is focused on immediate application, not on the development of the theory or on generalization of applications. It places its emphasis on a problem at the local setting. Its findings are to be evaluated in terms of local applicability, not universal validity.

In different institutions or organizations such researches are conducted to improve the human resources their habit of thinking, ability to work harmoniously with others and professional spirit.

Problem Oriented Research

This types of research is done by industry apex body for sorting out problems faced by all the companies, for example, WTO does problem oriented research for developing countries. In India Agriculture and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) conducts regular research for the benefit of agro-industry. As the name indicates, Problem identifying researches are undertaken to know the exact nature of a problem that is required to be solved. Here, one clarification is needed when the term 'Problem' is used; it is not a problem in true sense. It is usually a decision making dilemma or it is a need to tackle a particular business situation. It could be a difficulty or an opportunity. For example, revenue of mobile company has decreased by 25% in the last year. Suppose the prime cause of the problem is poor advertising campaign and secondary cause is higher pricing. Now, to tackle the problem of poor advertising, it requires to answer to the questions like-what can be the new advertising campaign, who can be the brand ambassador, which media, which channel, at what time and during which program advertisements will be broadcast and so on.

Problem Solving Research

This type of research is done by an individual company for the problem faced by it. Marketing research or market research are the applied research. For example, Videocon International conducts research to study customer's satisfaction level; it will be problem solving research. In short, the main aim of problem solving research is to discover some solution for some pressing practical problem.

Quantitative Research

Quantitative Research is based on numeric figures or numbers. It aims to measure the quantity or amount and compares it with past records and tries to project for future period. In social sciences Quantitative Research refers to the systematic empirical investigation of quantitative properties and phenomena and their relationships. The objective of Quantitative Research is to develop and employ mathematical models, theories or hypothesis pertaining to phenome-

na. The process of measurement is central to quantitative research because it provides fundamental connection between empirical observation and mathematical expression of quantitative relationships. Statistics is the most widely used branch of mathematics in quantitative research. Statistical methods are used extensively within fields such as economics and commerce.

Qualitative Research

Qualitative research presents non-quantitative type of analysis. Qualitative research is collecting, analyzing and interpreting data by observing what people do and say. Qualitative Research refers to the meanings, definitions, characteristics, symbols, metaphors, and description of things. Qualitative Research is much more subjective and uses very different methods of collecting information, mainly individual, in-depth interviews and focus groups.

The nature of this type of research is exploratory and open-ended. Small number of people is interviewed in depth and a relatively small number of focus groups are conducted. Qualitative research can be further classified in the following type.

Phenomenology

Phenomenology is a form of research in which the researcher attempts to understand how one or more individuals experience a phenomenon. For example, the researcher might interview 20 victims of Bhopal tragedy to have a proper understanding of the incident.

Ethnography

Ethnography is a type of research that focuses on describing the culture of a group of people. A culture is the shared attributes, values, norms, practices, language, and material things of a group of people. e.g., the researcher might decide to go and live with the tribal in Andaman Island and study the culture and the educational practices.

Case Study

Case Study is a form of qualitative research that is focused on providing a detailed account of one or more cases. For example, one may study a classroom that was given a new curriculum for technology use.

Grounded Theory

Grounded Theory is an inductive type of research based or grounded in the observations of data from which it was developed; it uses a variety of data sources, including quantitative data, review of records, interviews, observation and surveys.

In addition to the above list, an exhaustive list of researches in different field of studies are necessarily conducted, some worth mentioning are -analytical research, conceptual research, empirical research, one time research or longitudinal research, field setting research or laboratory research or simulation research, clinical or diagnostic research, exploratory research, conclusion oriented research, short term research. In humanities, descriptive and empirical methods are substantially used to have a deep delve into the ocean of literature to pick up the most precious pearls that get reflected on the societal mirror, thus, providing a never ending push to the chariot of progress for human civilization.

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