

MODULE - 2

Defining the Research Problem

Research Problem, Selecting the Problem, Necessity of Defining the Problem, Technique Involved in Defining a Problem, An Illustration. Reviewing the literature: Place of the literature review in research, Bringing clarity and focus to your research problem, Improving research methodology, Broadening knowledge base in research area, Enabling contextual findings, How to review the literature, searching the existing literature, reviewing the selected literature, Developing a theoretical framework, Developing a conceptual framework, Writing about the literature reviewed.

8 Hours

A. Research Problem

1. What is a research problem?

- a) A vague question without direction
- b) A specific issue or challenge that requires investigation
- c) A summary of existing literature
- d) An untestable hypothesis

Answer: b

2. Why is selecting the right research problem crucial?

- a) To avoid wasting resources
- b) To align with personal interests only
- c) To replicate existing studies
- d) To publish faster

Answer: a

3. A good research problem should be:

- a) Complex and unsolvable
- b) Clear, focused, and researchable
- c) Broad and general
- d) Controversial

Answer: b

4. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of a good research problem?

- a) Clearly defined and specific
- b) Relevant to the field of study
- c) Based solely on personal opinion
- d) Feasible to investigate

Answer: c

5. A research problem is considered significant if it:

- a) Solves a theoretical or practical issue
- b) Is vague and broad
- c) Requires minimal research effort
- d) Focuses only on past findings

Answer: a

6. Which of the following factors should be considered when selecting a research problem?

- a) Availability of data
- b) Researcher's expertise
- c) Ethical considerations
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

B. Selecting the Problem

7. Before finalizing a research problem, it is important to:

- a) Ignore existing research
- b) Conduct a preliminary literature review
- c) Choose a random topic
- d) Consult non-experts

Answer: b

8. Which of the following is NOT a criterion for selecting a research problem?

- a) Interest of the researcher
- b) Availability of data
- c) The problem has already been solved completely
- d) Feasibility of conducting the research

Answer: c

9. Which factor is most important when selecting a research problem?

- a) The researcher's personal preference
- b) The problem's contribution to knowledge
- c) The ease of completing the study
- d) The availability of pre-written reports

Answer: b

10. What is the primary step before finalizing a research problem?

- a) Writing a hypothesis
- b) Conducting a pilot study
- c) Reviewing existing literature
- d) Collecting primary data

Answer: c

C. Necessity of Defining the Problem

11. Why is it necessary to define a research problem clearly?

- a) To limit the scope of research
- b) To avoid clarity
- c) To increase ambiguity
- d) To simplify hypothesis formulation

Answer: a

12. What happens if a research problem is not well-defined?

- a) The research becomes more focused
- b) The study may lack direction
- c) The results are guaranteed to be valid
- d) Literature review is unnecessary

Answer: b

13. What is the main purpose of defining a research problem?

- a) To make the research topic more complex
- b) To ensure clarity and direction in the research
- c) To increase the length of the study
- d) To avoid research gaps

Answer: b

14. A poorly defined research problem may lead to:

- a) Ambiguous research objectives
- b) Clear hypotheses
- c) Efficient data collection
- d) Strong theoretical foundations

Answer: a

15. Which of the following is a common mistake when defining a research problem?

- a) Making it too broad
- b) Making it too narrow
- c) Not relating it to existing research
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

16. What is the outcome of a well-defined research problem?

- a) A clear research objective
- b) A broad and unfocused study
- c) Reduced significance of research
- d) Confusion in data collection

Answer: a

17. Defining the research problem helps in:

- a) Narrowing down the scope of the study
- b) Increasing uncertainty
- c) Making research more time-consuming
- d) Avoiding the use of scientific methods

Answer: a

D. Technique Involved in Defining a Problem

18. Which technique helps in defining a research problem?

- a) Brainstorming sessions
- b) Reviewing related literature
- c) Consulting experts in the field
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

19. Which technique is most useful in defining a research problem?

- a) Reviewing literature
- b) Consulting experts
- c) Conducting preliminary studies
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

20. Which of the following is a key technique in defining a research problem?

- a) Identifying the variables involved
- b) Choosing a random topic
- c) Avoiding literature review
- d) Skipping hypothesis formulation

Answer: a

21. Which of the following is NOT a method used to define a research problem?

- a) Reviewing existing studies
- b) Conducting preliminary research
- c) Ignoring theoretical concepts
- d) Consulting experts

Answer: c

22. Which of the following is an essential characteristic of a research problem?

- a) It should be general and vague
- b) It should be testable and researchable
- c) It should be based on assumptions alone
- d) It should be completely theoretical with no practical application

Answer: b

E. Reviewing the Literature

23. What is the primary purpose of a literature review?

- a) To summarize every related article
- b) To provide context and background for the research problem
- c) To critique other researchers
- d) To fill pages in a thesis

Answer: b

24. A literature review should ideally:

- a) Ignore conflicting viewpoints
- b) Provide a comprehensive overview of previous research
- c) Only include recent studies
- d) Be biased towards certain findings

Answer: b

25. How does a literature review help in refining a research problem?

- a) By exposing gaps in existing research
- b) By making the problem more complex
- c) By summarizing unrelated studies
- d) By avoiding theoretical frameworks

Answer: a

26. What is the first step in reviewing the literature?

- a) Conducting experiments
- b) Identifying relevant sources
- c) Writing the research paper
- d) Collecting primary data

Answer: b

27. Which of the following is NOT a benefit of a literature review?

- a) Identifying gaps in existing research
- b) Avoiding repetition of studies
- c) Finding irrelevant data for research
- d) Understanding different research methodologies

Answer: c

28. Which of the following is a valid source for reviewing literature?

- a) Peer-reviewed journals
- b) Random blogs
- c) Social media posts
- d) Unverified sources

Answer: a

29. A good literature review should include:

- a) A summary of previous studies
- b) A critical analysis of existing research
- c) Identification of research gaps
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

30. The primary purpose of reviewing the literature is to:

- a) Replicate previous studies
- b) Identify research gaps
- c) Avoid referencing other research
- d) Increase research complexity

Answer: b

31. Which of the following is NOT a step in reviewing the literature?

- a) Searching for existing research
- b) Summarizing previous studies
- c) Ignoring contradictory findings
- d) Developing a research framework

Answer: c

32. Which of the following is NOT a good source for a literature review?

- a) Peer-reviewed journals
- b) Conference proceedings
- c) Social media blogs
- d) Books by experts in the field

Answer: c

F. Improving Research Methodology

33. Reviewing literature helps in:

- a) Identifying methodological strengths and weaknesses
- b) Ignoring research gaps
- c) Avoiding critical analysis
- d) Disregarding theoretical frameworks

Answer: a

34. What aspect of research does the literature review improve?

- a) Research methodology design
- b) Hypothesis neglection
- c) Avoiding new findings
- d) Isolating the research problem

Answer: a

G. Broadening Knowledge Base in Research Area

35. How does reviewing literature broaden knowledge?

- a) By exploring various perspectives and approaches
- b) By focusing on a single viewpoint
- c) By excluding recent studies
- d) By ignoring conflicting results

Answer: a

36. A broad knowledge base aids in:

- a) Developing comprehensive research frameworks
- b) Limiting the scope of study
- c) Avoiding interdisciplinary approaches
- d) Narrowing research focus unnecessarily

Answer: a

H. Research Problem

37. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of a good research problem?

- a) Clearly defined and specific
- b) Relevant to the field of study
- c) Based solely on personal opinion
- d) Feasible to investigate

Answer: c

38. A research problem is considered significant if it:

- a) Solves a theoretical or practical issue
- b) Is vague and broad
- c) Requires minimal research effort
- d) Focuses only on past findings

Answer: a

39. Which of the following factors should be considered when selecting a research problem?

- a) Availability of data
- b) Researcher's expertise
- c) Ethical considerations
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

I. Necessity of Defining the Problem

40. What is the main purpose of defining a research problem?

- a) To make the research topic more complex
- b) To ensure clarity and direction in the research
- c) To increase the length of the study
- d) To avoid research gaps

Answer: b

41. A poorly defined research problem may lead to:

- a) Ambiguous research objectives
- b) Clear hypotheses
- c) Efficient data collection
- d) Strong theoretical foundations

Answer: a

42. Which of the following is a common mistake when defining a research problem?

- a) Making it too broad
- b) Making it too narrow
- c) Not relating it to existing research
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

J. Techniques Involved in Defining a Research Problem

43. Which technique is most useful in defining a research problem?

- a) Reviewing literature
- b) Consulting experts
- c) Conducting preliminary studies
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

44. A research problem should be formulated in such a way that it:

- a) Has a clear scope and limitations
- b) Is impossible to investigate
- c) Avoids any existing research
- d) Is entirely theoretical with no practical applications

Answer: a

K. Reviewing the Literature

45. What is the first step in reviewing the literature?

- a) Conducting experiments
- b) Identifying relevant sources
- c) Writing the research paper
- d) Collecting primary data

Answer: b

46. Which of the following is NOT a benefit of a literature review?

- a) Identifying gaps in existing research
- b) Avoiding repetition of studies
- c) Finding irrelevant data for research
- d) Understanding different research methodologies

Answer: c

47. Which of the following is a valid source for reviewing literature?

- a) Peer-reviewed journals
- b) Random blogs
- c) Social media posts
- d) Unverified sources

Answer: a

48. A good literature review should include:

- a) A summary of previous studies
- b) A critical analysis of existing research
- c) Identification of research gaps
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

49. Which of the following is NOT a common method for searching literature?

- a) Using academic databases
- b) Reviewing books and journals
- c) Skipping citation tracking
- d) Reading conference papers

Answer: c

50. What is citation tracking?

- a) Reviewing references from relevant research papers
- b) Ignoring previous studies
- c) Copying references without verification
- d) Using outdated sources

Answer: a

L. Developing a Theoretical & Conceptual Framework

51. What is a theoretical framework?

- a) A set of theories that guide research
- b) A collection of random ideas
- c) A summary of research data
- d) A statistical tool

Answer: a

52. A conceptual framework is different from a theoretical framework because:

- a) It is based on the researcher's own model of the study
- b) It consists only of existing theories
- c) It does not influence the study
- d) It is used only in quantitative research

Answer: a

53. Which of the following statements about theoretical and conceptual frameworks is true?

- a) Both frameworks guide research but serve different purposes
- b) Theoretical frameworks are unnecessary in empirical studies
- c) Conceptual frameworks are only relevant in literature reviews
- d) Both frameworks are used only in qualitative research

Answer: a

M. Enabling Contextual Findings

54. Why is enabling contextual findings important in research?

- a) It helps in relating findings to existing knowledge
- b) It makes the study more isolated
- c) It reduces the relevance of the research
- d) It avoids previous studies

Answer: a

55. Contextual findings help in:

- a) Drawing meaningful conclusions
- b) Isolating research outcomes
- c) Contradicting previous research
- d) Disregarding existing theories

Answer: a

N. Developing a Theoretical Framework

56. Why is developing a theoretical framework crucial?

- a) It guides the research design and data analysis
- b) It complicates the study
- c) It is optional and not important
- d) It limits the research scope

Answer: a

57. A conceptual framework is different from a theoretical framework because:

- a) It is based on the researcher's own model of the study
- b) It consists only of existing theories
- c) It does not influence the study
- d) It is used only in quantitative research

Answer: a

O. Writing About the Literature Reviewed

58. Which of the following is NOT a key step in writing a literature review?

- a) Summarizing key findings
- b) Critically analyzing sources
- c) Copy-pasting from research papers
- d) Identifying gaps in knowledge

Answer: c

59. Which of the following is an important aspect of a well-structured literature review?

- a) Organizing studies by themes or concepts
- b) Listing sources without analysis
- c) Including personal opinions only
- d) Avoiding citations

Answer: a

60. A literature review should be:

- a) Objective and well-structured
- b) Completely opinion-based
- c) Limited to one perspective
- d) Focused only on recent studies

Answer: a

*****MODULE - 2*****