MISSING VALUE PATTERNS:-

When Collecting Observation about a
variable missing values occur due to
reasons as diverse as

An error in machinery /equipment.
error on part of the researcher.
Unavilable respondent.
accidental deleting of observation.
forgetfullness on part of the respondent.
error in accounting, etc.

Types of missing values can generally be
classified as

MISSING COMPLETELY AT RANDOM (MCAR)

This happens when the missing values
have no hidden dependency on any
other variables or any charactoristics
of Observation. If a doctor forgets to
record the age of every tenth patient
entering an ICU, the presence of
missing value would not depend on
the Charactoristics of the patient.

MISSING AT RANDOM (MAR)

In this case the probability of missing
value depends on the Charactoristics
of Observable data. In Survey data
high income respondents are less
likely to inform the resarcher about
the number of properties owned.