MCA

Understanding Research Problems and Formulating Research Problems

Identification, Characteristics, Sources, Techniques, Questions, and Hypothesis

Name   : Divesh Jadhwani
Institution   : Pimpri Chinchwad University
LECTURE 3

Agenda

1. **Identifying Research Problems**
2. **Characteristics of Good Research Problems**
3. **Sources of Research Problems**
4. **Techniques for Formulating Research Problems**
5. **Framing Research Questions**
6. **Hypothesis Development**
7. **Real-life Examples and Case Studies**
8. **Quiz**

Understanding Research Problems

1 . Identifying Research Problems

Definition: A research problem is a specific issue, difficulty, contradiction, or gap in knowledge that you aim to address in your research.

Example: The rise in student anxiety levels during exam periods.

2. Steps to Identify Research Problems

1. **Observation:** Notice issues in your field of interest.
2. **Literature Review:** Identify gaps in existing research.
3. **Practical Experience:** Use personal or professional experiences to spot problems.
4. **Discussion:** Engage with peers, mentors, and experts.

3. Characteristics of Good Research Problems

- **Clear and Precise:** Easily understood and unambiguous.IF you describe a message or comment as unambiguous, you mean that it is clear and cannot be understood wrongly.
- **Researchable:** Feasible to investigate within constraints.
- **Significant:** Contributes to the field and addresses important issues.
- **Ethical:** Adheres to ethical standards.

Example of a Good Research Problem

Scenario: High dropout rates in online courses.

- Clear and Precise: "What are the factors contributing to high dropout rates in online courses?"
- Researchable: Can be studied through surveys and data analysis.
- Significant: Addresses a growing concern in education.
- Ethical: Does not harm participants.

4. Sources of Research Problems

- **Literature:** Academic journals, books, and conference papers.
- **Existing Theories:** Gaps or contradictions in current theories.
- **Personal Experience:** Issues encountered in professional practice.
- **Social Issues:** Current societal challenges and trends.

Formulating Research Problems

Techniques for Formulating Research Problems

Brainstorming: Generate a list of potential problems.

Mind Mapping: Visualize connections between ideas.

SWOT Analysis: Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Gap Analysis: Find gaps between current and desired states.

Example Technique: Brainstorming

Scenario: Improving public transportation.

- Potential Problems: Lack of routes, overcrowding, inefficiency, environmental impact.
- Formulated Problem: "How can public transportation efficiency be improved to reduce overcrowding and environmental impact?"

2. Framing Research Questions

Definition: Specific questions you aim to answer through your research.

Criteria: Clear, focused, and researchable.

Example: "What are the most effective methods to reduce student anxiety during exams?"

3. Developing a Good Research Question

Specific: Narrow down the scope.

Measurable: Can be evaluated through data.

Achievable: Feasible within given resources.

Relevant: Pertinent to the field of study.

Time-bound: Can be answered within the research timeframe.

4. Hypothesis Development

Definition: A tentative answer to the research question based on existing knowledge.

Types: Null hypothesis (no effect) and alternative hypothesis (effect exists).

Example: "Implementing mindfulness techniques will reduce student anxiety during exams."

EXAMPLE :

Research Question: "Does physical exercise improve academic performance in high school students?"

- Null Hypothesis: Physical exercise does not affect academic performance.
- Alternative Hypothesis: Physical exercise improves academic performance.

Case Studies

Case Study 1: Social Media Usage and Mental Health

- **Research Problem:** Rising mental health issues among teenagers.
- **Research Question:** "How does social media usage affect the mental health of teenagers?"
- **Hypothesis:** Increased social media usage leads to higher levels of anxiety and depression among teenagers.

Case Studies

Case Study 2: Renewable Energy Adoption

Research Problem: Low adoption rates of renewable energy sources.

Research Question: "What are the barriers to adopting renewable energy in urban areas?"

Hypothesis: High initial costs and lack of awareness are significant barriers to adopting renewable energy.

QUIZ

Question 1: Which of the following is not a characteristic of a good research problem?

- a) Clear and precise
- b) Easily solvable without research
- c) Significant
- d) Ethical

QUIZ

Question 2: What is the purpose of a null hypothesis?

- a) To prove a theory
- b) To show no effect or relationship
- c) To describe a phenomenon
- d) To explain existing knowledge

QUIZ

Question 3: Which technique involves visualizing connections between ideas?

- a) SWOT Analysis
- b) Brainstorming
- c) Mind Mapping
- d) Gap Analysis

Summary

Recap of key points: Identifying research problems, characteristics, sources, techniques, research questions, and hypothesis development.

Importance of formulating clear and researchable problems for successful research.