# Lesson Two:

## Comparison between class work and research

There are differences between class work and research programs, the differences are:

1. Assignments given out in class already have answers, however a research problem does not have an answer and that the researcher has to look for an answer.
2. In class students are normally given problems to solve, in research it is the student who is supposed to come up with a research problem.
3. The assignments normally given out in class one can be able to seek help from the classmates, while in research there is nobody who knows the answer to the problem being addressed.
4. For the assignments normally given in class one is guided on how to solve them, while in research that is not the case.

## Essential skills for researchers

When doing research there are essential skills that one is required to have in order for one to be successful. They include:

1. Communication skills.
2. Presentation skills.
3. Reading skills.
4. Creative.
5. Self – motivated.
6. Judgmental skills.

Research is undertaken for various reasons; there are different things that motivate people to research:

1. One can undertake a research problem because one wants to complete a course.
2. One can undertake a research project because one has been employed to do research; there are research positions in universities and institutions all over the world.
3. One can be involved in research simply because one is interested in getting to know answers to particular problems.
4. One can undertake a research project because it is a government directive.
5. One can also undertake the research project because one is curious in getting to know new things.

## Types of research

It should be noted that research projects are of different types; research can be categorized on the basis of:

1. The research methodology that is applied.
2. The knowledge that is created at the end of the project period.
3. The research problem that is resolved.
4. The users of the research findings. e.t.c

### Applied research

Applied research is also referred to as action research this research involves solving a problem that is experienced by community members.

### Fundamental research

This is also referred to as pure research or basic research. This research is about advancement of knowledge in a certain field, it is not concerned with solving problems that are being faced by people, but is however concerned in generating e.g. new theories

### Quantitative research

It is based on measurement of quantity or amount, in quantitative research statistical analysis is mostly used in data analysis.

### Qualitative research

This research is concerned with quality, e.g. one can undertake a qualitative research just to find out what drives people into writing computer programs, one can also carry out a qualitative research to find out how people think about I.C.T. one can also carry out a qualitative research to find out how people use I.C.T.

### Descriptive research

This research is used to describe the state of affairs as is, this means that descriptive research is describing what is going on.

### Explanatory research

This research is concerned with finding out why certain things are happening.

Other types of researches include: **library research, field research, lab research, historical research, experimental research, e.t.c.**