Introduction to Research: General Concepts

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- What is research?
- Characteristics of the Scientific Method
- ☐ Characteristics of Scientific Knowledge
- General Approaches to Research
- ☐ Types of Research in Public

Administration

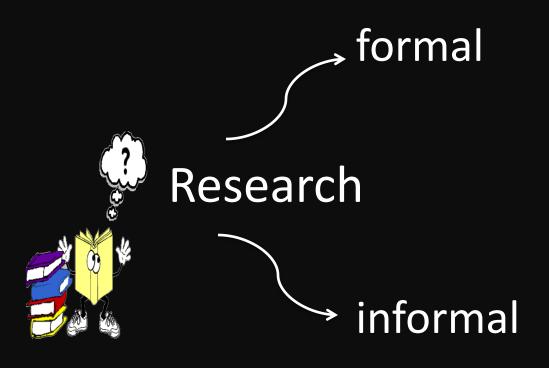
Research is an <u>organized</u> <u>inquiry</u> carried out to provide information for solving problems.

• It is the cornerstone of every science.



What is research?





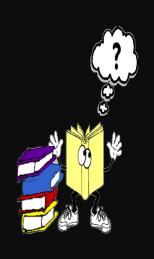






Is a process in looking at solution of a given problem which can be used as basis for:

- policy formulation
- policy enhancement or improvements



But before you can come up with POLICY, it should be back up with empirical (observed) data which requires the process of research

What is research?

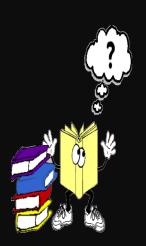


Research is the systematic process of collecting and analyzing information to increase our understanding of the world in general and of the phenomenon under study in particular.

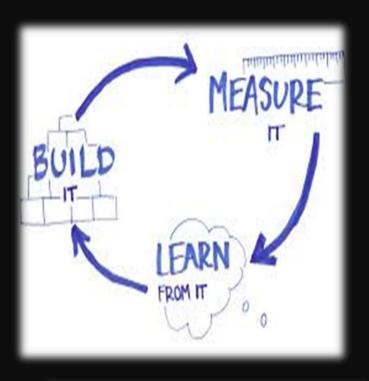
Why conduct research?

Students, professors, researchers, research centers, government, practitioners, newspaper people, TV networks, market research firms, schools, hospitals, social service, political parties, consulting firms, HR departments, public interest organizations, insurance, law firms conduct research as part of their jobs, to be better informed, less biased decisions, in contrast to guessing, hunches, intuition, and other personal experience.

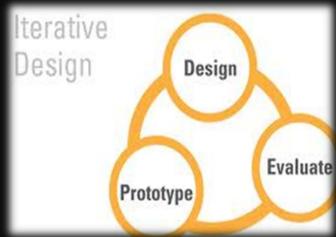
Therefore,



RESEARCH concerns with WHAT (facts and conclusions) and HOW (scientific; critical components).



Research is a iterative process that eventually seeks to explain or solve an identified problem.



Characteristics of the Scientific Method



1. Tentative (constant review)

2. Empirically verifiable (researchable)

3. Ethically neutral (what harm or risk involved to respondents, confidentiality and privacy?)

4. Shared and made public

Purpose of Research



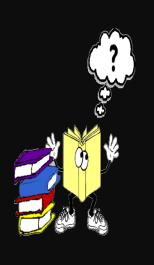
- explore
- describe
- explain

Types of Research



- 1. According to Purpose
 - ☐ Fundamental/Pure/Basic
 - Lab research
 - Applied
 - evaluation
 - action
 - social impact

Basic



- starting point for the search of new knowledge.
- provides a foundation for knowledge and foundations that are generalizable to many policy areas, problems or area of study
- Source of the tools methods, theories, ideas

 research is driven by a scientist's curiosity or interest in a scientific question. The main motivation is to expand man's knowledge, not to create or invent something. There is no obvious commercial value to the discoveries that result from basic research.

	For example,	basic science	investigations	probe for ans	swers to q	uestions
	such as:					
_						

- ☐ How did the universe begin?
- ☐ What are protons, neutrons, and electrons composed of?
- ☐ How do slime molds reproduce?
- ☐ What is the specific genetic code of the fruit fly?

Life Cycle of Slime Mold spore sorocarp slug emerging amoeba aggregated amoebae amoeba pseudoplasmodium aggregating amoebae

Applied Research

- refers to scientific study and research that seeks to solve practical problems. Applied research is used to find solutions to everyday problems, cure illness, and develop innovative technologies, rather than to acquire knowledge for knowledge's sake.
- For example, applied researchers may investigate ways to: Improve agricultural crop production
- Treat or cure a specific disease
- Improve the energy efficiency of homes, offices, or modes of transportation





- application of the methods, ideas,
 theories from basic research
- -Want to apply and tailored knowledge to address a specific practical issue;
- towards development of more efficient technologies or particular way of doing things.
- Address issue of application
- It asks "does it work"

Action



 advances the aims of basic and applied research to the point of utilization.

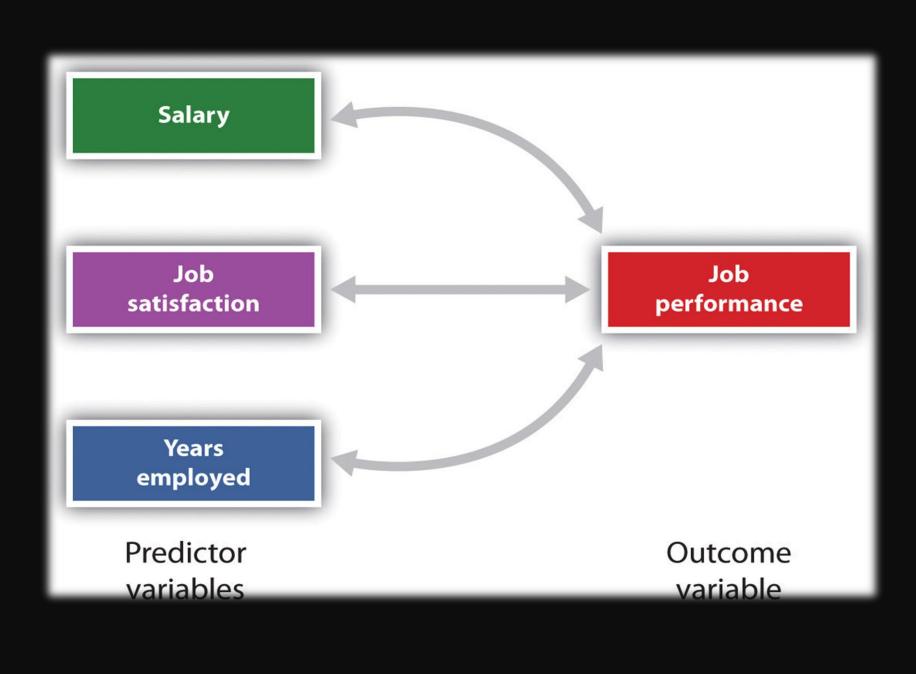
-concerned with the production of results for immediate application or utilization.

-it improves practices and methods and generates technologies and innovations for application to specific technological situations.

-the emphasis is here and now

Correlational Research

- refers to the systematic investigation or statistical study of relationships among two or more variables, without necessarily determining cause and effect.
- It Seeks to establish a relation/association/correlation between two or more variables that do not readily lend themselves to experimental manipulation.
- For example, to test the hypothesis "Listening to music lowers blood pressure levels" there are 2 ways of conducting research
- Experimental group samples and make one group listen to music and then compare the bp levels
- Survey ask people how they feel? How often they listen? And then compare



According to Methods



Historical - The purpose is to collect, verify, synthesize evidence to establish facts that defend or refute your hypothesis. It uses primary sources, secondary sources, and lots of qualitative data sources such as logs, diaries, official records, reports, etc. The limitation is that the sources must be both authentic and

Historical Research

 Historical research is research involving analysis of events that occurred in the remote or recent past

Application

- Historical research can show patterns that occurred in the past and over time which can help us to see where we came from and what kinds of solutions we have used in the past.
- Understanding this can add perspective on how we examine current events and educational practices.

The steps involved in the conduct of historical research

Here are the five steps:

- 1. Identification of the research topic and formulation of the research problem or question.
- 2. Data collection or literature review
- 3. Evaluation of materials
- 4. Data synthesis
- 5. Report preparation or preparation of the narrative exposition

Descriptive Research

- refers to research that provides an accurate portrayal of characteristics of a particular individual, situation, or group. Descriptive research, also known as statistical research.
- These studies are a means of discovering new meaning, describing what exists, determining the frequency with which something occurs, and categorizing information.

Descriptive – It attempts to describe and explain conditions of the present by using many subjects and questionnaires to fully describe a phenomenon. Survey research design /survey methodology is one of the most popular for thesis/dissertation

 In short descriptive research deals with everything that can be counted and studied, which has an impact of the lives of the people it deals with.

For example:

• finding the most frequent disease that affects the children of a town. The reader of the research will know what to do to prevent that disease thus, more people will live a healthy life.

Case and Field Research Design

• Also called *ethnographic* research, it uses direct observation to give a complete snapshot of a case that is being studied. It is useful when not much is known about a phenomenon. Uses few subjects.

Developmental or Time Series Research Design

 Data are collected at certain points in time going forward.
 There is an emphasis on time patterns and longitudinal growth or change.



Quasi Experimental Research Design

 This research design approximates the experimental design but does not have a control group. There is more error possible in the results.

Experimental Research

is an objective, systematic, controlled investigation for the purpose of predicting and controlling phenomena and examining probability and causality among selected variables.

Experimental Research Design - This design is most appropriate in controlled settings such as laboratories. The design assumes *random* assignment of subjects and random assignment to groups (E and C). It attempts to explore cause and affect relationships where causes can be manipulated to produce different kinds of effects. Because of the requirement of random assignment, this design can be difficult to execute in the world (non laboratory) setting.

- The simplest experimental design includes two variables and two groups of participants.
- The two variables (Independent versus Dependent variables).
- The IV is the predictor variable whereas the DV is the outcome variable.
- Researchers manipulate and control the IV to study it's effect on the DV.

- The two groups of participants (Control versus Experimental group).
- Before beginning the experiment, the researcher (randomly) assigns his/her sample to two different groups: the control group and the experimental (treatment group or clinical group).
- The control group receives no manipulation of the IV (no treatment), whereas the experimental group receives the manipulation of the IV

Causal Comparative or Ex Post Facto Research Design

- This research design attempts to explore cause and affect relationships where causes already exist and cannot be manipulated. It uses what already exists and looks backward to explain why

Correlational or Prospective Research Design

Correlational or Prospective Research Design - It attempts to explore relationships to make predictions. It uses one set of subjects with two or more variables for each.

 Exploratory research can be quite informal, relying on secondary research such as reviewing available literature and/or data, or qualitative approaches such as informal discussions with consumers, employees, management or competitors, and more formal approaches through in-depth interviews, focus groups, projective methods, case studies or pilot studies.

Exploratory Research

- is a type of research conducted for a problem that has not been clearly defined. Exploratory research helps determine the best research design, data collection method and selection of subjects.
- The results of exploratory research are not usually useful for decision-making by themselves, but they can provide significant insight into a given situation

Phenomenological Research

 an inductive, descriptive research approach developed from phenomenological philosophy; its aim is to describe an experience as it is actually lived by the person

- Phenomenology is concerned with the study of experience from the perspective of the individual, 'bracketing' taken-for-granted assumptions and usual ways of perceiving.
- They are based in a paradigm of personal knowledge and subjectivity, and emphasise the importance of personal perspective and interpretation.
- As such they are powerful for understanding subjective experience, gaining insights into people's motivations and actions, and cutting through the clutter of takenfor-granted assumptions and conventional wisdom.

Purpose of Research



- explore
- describe
- explain

General Approaches to Research

1. Qualitative

2. Quantitative

3. Mixed Method

General Approaches to Research

In social sciences and later in other disciplines, the following two research methods can be applied, depending on the properties of the subject matter and on the objective of the research

Qualitative

understanding of human behavior and the reasons that govern such behavior, involves analysis of data using words (e.g., from interviews), pictures (e.g., video), or objects (e.g., an artifact)

Quantitative

involves analysis of numerical data and their relationship

Inductive ·

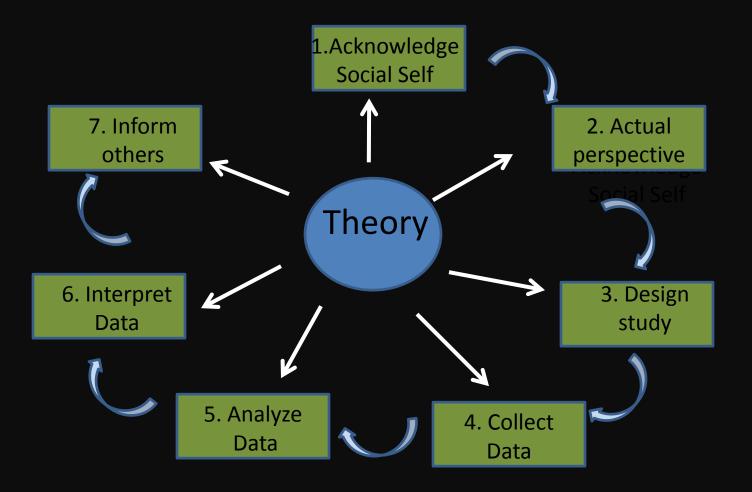
Qualitative research is research dealing with phenomena that are difficult or impossible to quantify mathematically, such as beliefs, meanings, attributes, and symbols

Qualitative researchers aim to gather an indepth understanding of human behaviour and the reasons that govern such behavior. The qualitative method investigates the why and how of decision making, not just what, where, when.

- Quantitative research is generally made using scientific methods, which can include:
- The generation of models, theories and hypotheses
- The development of instruments and methods for measurement
- Experimental control and manipulation of variables
- Collection of empirical data
- Modelling and analysis of data
- Evaluation of results

1. Qualitative

- inductive- from fact to theory
- explore factors that could explain why a given event occurs
- establish patterns/develop theory for understanding how and why an event occur



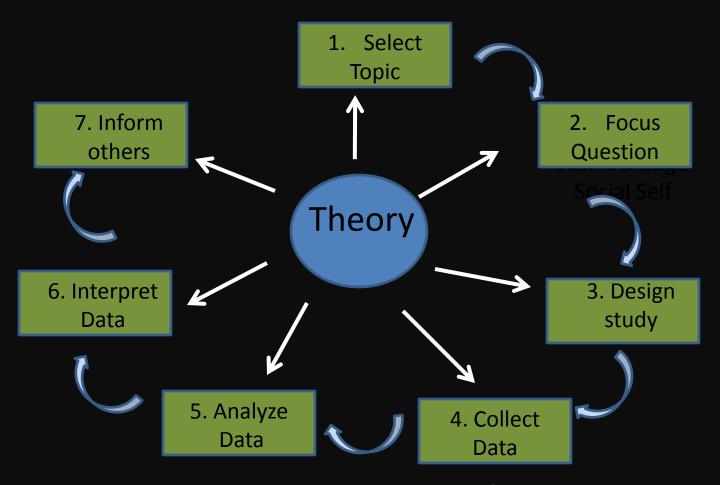
Steps in Qualitative Research

2. Quantitative

- deductive from theory to fact
- establish cause-effect relationship
- relate occurrence of a variable with other variables
- Establish generalizations for prediction and control

Quantitative Research

 refers to the systematic empirical investigation of any phenomena via statistical, mathematical or computational techniques. The objective of quantitative research is to develop and employ mathematical models, theories and/or hypotheses pertaining to phenomena



Steps in Qualitative Research

General Approaches to Research



Mixed Method Approach Qualitative + Quantitative

Types of Research in Public Administration



Social sciences – anthropology (the study of humankind, in particular. the comparative study of human societies and cultures and their development), psychology (study of the mind and behavior), Ex.

The 7 habit of emotionally Intelligent People?

Situational theory of Leadership? political science, and sociology, involving the study of people, their belief, behavior, interaction, institutional, etc.

Types of Research in Public Administration



political science, and sociology, involving the study of people, their belief, behavior, interaction, institutional, etc.

Comparative politics studies the politics, governments and cultures of different countries and focuses on how government and politics actually operate

examines the country's system of government, including its presidents, cabinets, parliament, political parties, voting systems, elections, coalitions, policy issues and problems

The development of the "rule of law" in pre-modern China and Korea

Types of Research in Public Administration

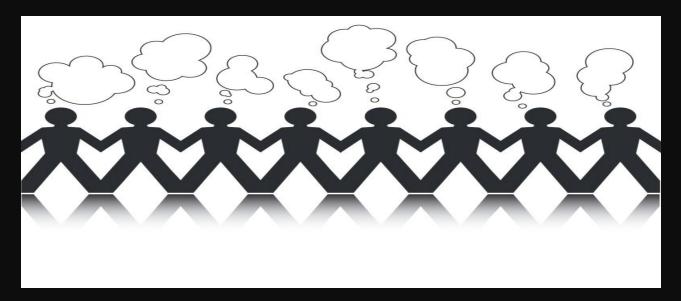


Policy and program

- Needs assessment
- Process evaluations
- Outcome evaluations

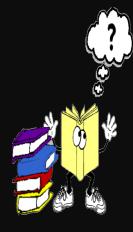
Workshop # 1: Brainstorming & Mind-mapping

identify issues/concerns/problems in their community and identify appropriate type of research that can be used to answer or solve the problem



Difference Between Issues and Problems

issue, you generally can readily come up with the solution. A **problem**, on the other hand, is not something that you can solve without forethought, and even a certain amount of guesswork.



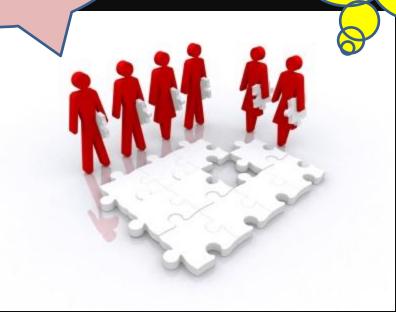
An issue is smaller, not life altering, and it doesn't present such a degree of difficulty that you have to seek out the counsel of others in order to figure out the impact of the issue. A problem is larger in scale, often large enough to alter your life either temporarily or permanently. A problem can easily require the advice and guidance of those around you, in order to solve it.

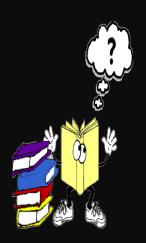
On a corporate or governmental level, an issue is something that can be handled behind closed doors, impacting no one but the people of highest authority in the situation. A problem involves information that must be released, because there will be cause to involve employees, or citizens, in the solution to the problem.

for instance, forgetting your lunch is an issue, but losing your job a problem.



Type of research





Issues & Concerns	Type of Research
1. Tardiness of councilmen	Applied (Action)



Problems	Research design
1. Poverty	Applied (evaluation)
2. Service Delivery	Applied (social impact)



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Reporting one hour