

INTRODUCTION:

Research is an intellectual activity which promotes advancement of knowledge which in turn helps to modernize the society. Research comprises "creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications." Research is any such activity which helps to gain fresh insight into something. It is used to establish or confirm facts, reaffirm the results of previous work, solve new or existing problems. Research is not merely an enquiry, it is actually a scientific enquiry. It is carried out scientifically or systematically or critically. It aims at seeking knowledge and endeavours to discover new facts or principles. It is continuous search for truth.

The term research has different connotations in different contexts. It is, therefore essential to study and examine various definitions of research given by different authorities. The Webster's International Dictionary defines research as "a careful critical enquiry or examination in seeking facts for principles, diligent investigation in order to ascertain something." Research is an academic activity and as such the term should be used in a technical sense. According to Clifford Woody research comprises defining and redefining problems, formulating hypothesis or suggested solutions; collecting, organising and evaluating data; making deductions and reaching conclusions; and at last carefully testing the conclusions to determine whether they fit the formulating hypothesis. Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences define research as "the manipulation of things, concepts or symbols for the purpose of generalising to extend, correct or verify knowledge, whether that knowledge aids in construction of theory or in the practice of an art." P.M cook outlines the term "Research "in a popular way. To him, "research" is an honest, exhaustive intelligent searching for facts and their meanings or implications, with reference to a problem. In an easy to remember method, he lists the attributes of research" taking the clue from each initial alphabet of the word:

- R - Rational way of thinking
- E - Expert and exhaustive treatment
- S- Search for solution
- E- Exactness
- A - Analysis
- R - Relationship of facts
- C - Critical observation, careful recording, constructive attitude and condensed generalization
- H - Honesty and hardworking

Research is, thus, an original addition to the available knowledge which contributes to the further advancement. It is an attempt to pursue truth through the methods of study, observation, comparison and experiment.

OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH:

The objective of research is to find out answers to questions through the application of systematic and scientific way.

- To gain familiarity with the present status of a phenomenon.
- To measure the frequency of occurrences of various parameters/indicators.
- To determine the characteristics of an individual or a group of activities.
- To determine the association or independence of an activity.
- To test the significance and validity and reliability of the results.

FEATURES OF A GOOD RESEARCH STUDY:

- Objectivity

A good research is objective in the sense that it must answer the research questions. This necessitates the formulation of a proper hypothesis, otherwise there may be a lack of congruence between the research questions and the hypothesis.

- Control

A good research must be able to control all the variables. This requires randomization at all stages, e.g., in selecting the subjects, the sample size and the experimental treatments. This shall ensure an adequate control over the independent variables.

- Generaliability

We should be able to have almost the same results by using an identical methodology so that we can apply the results to similar situations.

- Free from personal biases

A good research should be free from the researcher's personal biases and must be based on objectivity and not subjectivity.

- Systematic

A good research study must have various well planned steps, i.e., all steps must be interrelated and one step should lead to another step.