



## SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES IN INDIA

Shyam Dutonde

Late B. S. Arts, Prof, N. G. Science and A. G. Commerce College, Sakharkherda

### Abstract

**Research being one of the ancient method for discoveries and inventions has got a great significance in society of India. It is an immortal process, till the existence of society on earth. Thus the research is a journey of truth, discoveries and inventions. It is only through research, the society is consistently developing. Research is mainly concerned with the measurement of phenomenon in terms of quantity. Many a times a debate is conducted between qualitative and quantitative terms.**

**Keywords: Hypothesis, Simulation, Data, Variable.**

### Introduction

Research is very important part of Social Science. This research related to humanities. All progress is born with inquiry. The quest for knowledge is an immortal process and in its very simplest form this process has been called as research. Research evolves through our own inquisitiveness and this makes us to probe into the unknown facts and makes us to understand. Hence, inquisitiveness has been called as the mother of all knowledge. The way in which the research will be conducted is seen in terms of the research philosophy, research strategy, research instruments, research objective and the quest for solving the problem. Research is an art of scientific investigation for new knowledge. Gathering knowledge for knowledge sake is called as research. "Doubt is often better than overconfidence, for it leads to inquiry and inquiry leads to innovation" is the famous line of Hudson .

Research is an academic activity and as such it should be viewed in technical sense. The research traditions have a long history from the times of classical Greek philosophers with Plato

and Aristotle. During sixteenth and seventeenth century research evolved as a main stream in sociology under Karl Marx, Muller, Kant and Hegel. There are many differences and also interdependence between one subject and the other subject. Any researcher who is ready to undertake research should know the concepts and methods of research. Frankly speaking, a research work to be successful should have well established facts, well developed plan, an approach to develop new theories in a systematic manner. According to the observation, many authors are trying to combine different research methods to get the good and quality research. Hence, research is just an addition to the existing knowledge and making its advancement and generalizations.

### Definition of Research

Research is defined as an "art of gathering knowledge for the sake of knowledge."

Research is defined as a "systematic approach regarding generalizations and formulation of new theories."

According to Zina O' Leary : Research is a creative and strategic thinking process that involves constantly accessing, reassessing and making decisions about the best possible means for obtaining trustworthy information, carrying out appropriate analysis and tracing credible solution.

### Objectives of Research

Research is conducted for the growth of knowledge by digging deep into the unknown facts and unexplored theories. Even though each and every research has its own set of objectives, but still research can be conducted on the following four broad objectives in mind:

- **To Explore:** Research can be carried out by the researcher with the intention of

exploring the unexplored phenomenon or facts.

- **To Describe:** Sometimes research are conducted to portray the characteristic of an individual, group or society or to describe a particular situation or an event.
- **To Diagnose:** This study helps to understand the frequency of a particular event which is associated with another event.
- **To Establish Casual Relationships:** A research can be conducted for testing the hypothesis between the dependent variables with independent variables. These types of research are also called as hypothesis testing research studies.

### **Types of Research**

Research can be classified on the basis of time, purpose, settings, place and technique. Some research has similarities and some have little variations. But all the types of research has its own significance.

#### **Basic Research:**

It is also called as pure research. Research for the sake of enhancement of knowledge is termed as Basic Research. It is done with the intention of overpowering of the unknown facts. It is concerned with the generalizations and also with the formulation of new theory. Basic research may not produce solutions or results to the present problem but it contributes something to the scientific knowledge. Though its work may have zero importance, but it may become useful in the future.

#### **Applied Research:**

It is also called as practical research or 'need based' research. The main intention is to find solutions to the current problems being faced by an institution, society, business or in government offices. Research to identify social, political and economic changes, which has adverse effects in different sectors are some of the examples of applied research. This type of research is mainly carried on with the secondary data.

#### **Empirical Research:**

It is often referred to as experimental research. In this primary data is collected, analyzed, interpretation is done and subjected to hypothesis testing. Researcher should develop his experimental designs and should provide working hypothesis before the commencement of his research for good output.

#### **Qualitative Research:**

As the name itself suggests, this research is concerned with the qualitative process. It generally works with the study of human behavior. By this research one can find the body language, attitude, opinions, feelings etc from the opposite person through observation. It is mainly helpful for Psychiatrists and interviewers. Many techniques are being used like word association test, sentence completion, drawing pictures, Thematic Apperception Test. It is needed in times where quantitative researches do not work. Hence, it is also called as 'Motivation Research'.

#### **Quantitative Research:**

This research is mainly concerned with the measurement of phenomenon in terms of quantity. Many a times a debate is conducted between qualitative and quantitative terms. An example for the quantitative research is carrying out senses for collecting population, social, economic statistics of a particular area. They are subjected to statistical analysis. It relays mainly on primary data like survey method and questionnaire method. However, one can observe the inter-dependence between one another.

#### **Descriptive Research:**

As the name itself indicates, this research directly deals with description. It includes different data collection like survey method and fact finding techniques. The main character of this research is that, the researcher does not have control over the variables. He should describe what has happened and what is happening. Most Ex post facto projects use descriptive research.

#### **Some other types of research:**

Apart from the above types of research, there are many other classifications like

#### **Longitudinal Research**

Which is spread over for a long period of time. In this change takes place gradually.

#### **Historical Research**

Which is concerned with the collecting of auto biographies, letters, documents, enquiries for knowing the past.

#### **Simulation Research**

Deals with the creation of an artificial environment which is quite similar to real environment. Depending upon the need of the situation we can create and adjust to it.

**Significance of Research**

- It helps in framing of policies: Research helps in the framing of various government policies. Nearly all the government policies and budgets are planned and executed through research with the help of researcher. Annual budget, monthly budget, monetary and economic policies are all framed by the government. The government is assisted by various organization for framing the policies through research.
- Basic aim is to gain knowledge: It leads to many ideas and changes old facts.
- It is used in business organization: Many business companies hire researcher to work on various things. It is used in studying the changes taking place in the market. It helps in capital budgeting, tax management and cost saving policies.
- It leads to discovery and innovation of unknown facts and unexplored theories. It leads to the growth of the society and its citizens. It gives chance to the researcher to go deep into the subject and to innovate it.
- It avoids superstitious beliefs, myths and prejudices: Many people are still not aware of the research activities and its importance. Many ancient beliefs and myths have been proven wrong with the help of research.
- It leads to development of social welfare and society.
- It is useful for PhD students to write their thesis.

Thus Research is a fountain of knowledge, which helps in solving all government policies, business problems, avoids superstitious beliefs and helps in the development and maturity of society and its citizens

**Criteria for a Good Research**

1. Every research should have a well defined goal.
2. It should increase the existing knowledge and should contribute new facts and theories.
3. It should have a systematic plan of work on budget, time and requirements for research
4. It should be correct if cross checked by the readers.

5. It should be logical. A logical statement gives new ideas and helps in conclusion of research.
6. It should speak the truth and should not hide anything.

**Research in India**

India is a vast country. It is one of the fastest developing countries in terms of economy. Though it has a long history from the time of Vedas in the field of science and research, yet it has not gained a complete momentum in the field of research. Now a days it has started investing on research because of its importance in all the sectors. The role of government sectors, business companies and academic institutions in promoting research is being duly recognized and efforts are made to encourage research in almost all these sectors. But there are some problems which are being faced by a researcher in India. They are as follows:

- Unavailability of qualified personnel: Research is a work which should be done by the experts in their respective fields.
- Even though India has got more number of qualified personnel but many of them do not know the importance of research.
- Many researchers are going to foreign countries for their studies.
- Lack of scientific training: This is the main problem in India. Many of the research activities conducted by the researchers do not sound methodologically correct. Many people just do the work of copy and past method. Before a researcher undertake or start his project, he should get a good training and also complete information of the study.
- Lack of funds: Even though a researcher trying to work on his respective topic, but he will be getting less funds or no funds at all to his project. Even the business organization and some government sectors do not fund more than 5% of their revenues.
- Lack of interaction between academicians on one side and business & government organizations. Development should be made for the liaison of these sectors.

- Misuse of data provided by the investors.
- Lack of availability of the data published.

**Conclusion**

To conclude, Research being one of the ancient method for discoveries and inventions has got a great significance in society. It is an immortal process, till the existence of society on earth. Thus the research is a journey of truth, discoveries and inventions. It is only through research, the society is consistently developing. With the growth of fast moving society, there is

more need for research, research methods and researcher.

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