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# Master One

## Research Methodology

### Syllabus

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## **I. Content**

1. General Characteristics of Research
2. Criteria of good Research
3. Types of Research
4. Let's Wrap-up!
  - a. Questions and Answers
  - b. Discussion/ Debate
5. Let's Practice!
  - a. Written Feedback
  - b. Assessment

### **1. General Characteristics of Research**

The following characteristics may be gathered from the definitions of “research”:

- It gathers new knowledge or data from primary or first-hand sources.
- It places emphasis upon the discovery of general principles.
- It is an extent systematic and accurate investigation.
- It uses certain valid data gathering devices.
- It is logical and exact.
- The researcher eliminates personal feelings and preferences.
- Research is patient and unhurried activity
- Research is carefully recorded and reported.
- Conclusions and generalisations are arrived at carefully and cautiously (Singh,2006).

### **2. Criteria of a Good Research**

Whatever may be research is, one can state the qualities of good research should be as under:

- *Good research is systematic:* It means that research is structured with specified steps to be taken in specified sequence in accordance with the well-defined set of rules. Systematic characteristic of the research does not rule out creative thinking but certainly does reject the use of guessing and intuition in arriving at conclusions.

- *Good research is logical:* This implies that research is guided by the rules of logical reasoning and the logical process of induction and deduction are of great value in carrying out research. Introduction is the process of reasoning from a part to the whole; whereas, deduction is the process of reasoning from some premise. In fact, logical reasoning makes research more meaningful in the context of decision making.
- *Good research is replicable:* This characteristic allows research results to be verified by replicating the study and thereby building a sound basis for decisions (Kothari, 1990).

### **3. Types of Research**

The basic types of research are:

#### ***1. Description Vs. Analytical***

The major aim of descriptive research is description of the state of affairs as it exists at present. In analytical research, on the other hand, researcher has to use facts or information already available, and analyse these to make a critical evaluation of the materials.

#### ***2. Applied Vs. Fundamental***

Research can either be applied or (action) research or fundamental (basic or pure) research. Applied research aims at finding a solution for an immediate problem facing a society or an organisation; whereas, fundamental research is mainly concerned with generalisations and with the formulation of the theory

#### ***3. Conceptual Vs. Empirical***

Conceptual research is that related to some abstract idea(s) or theory. It is generally used by philosophers and thinkers to develop new concepts or reinterpret new ideas. On the other hand, empirical research relies on experience or observation alone, often without due regard for system or theory.

#### ***4. Other types of research***

All other types of research are variations of one or more of the above examples. Generally, these types of research are based on either the purpose of research, or the time required to accomplish research, or the environment in which research is done, or on the basis of some similar factor.

From the point of time, we can think of research as one-time research or longitudinal research. Depending on the environment, research can be field-self research or laboratory research. The research may be exploratory or it may be formalised. The objective of exploratory research is the development of hypotheses rather than testing these hypotheses; whereas, formalised research studies are those with substantial structure and with specific hypotheses to be tested.

Historical research is that which utilises historical sources like documents. It is concerned with the study of ideas, or events of the past. Research can also be classified as conclusions-oriented and decision-oriented. A research in doing conclusion oriented research is free to pick-up a problem, re-design the enquiry as s/he proceeds, and is prepared to conceptualise as s/he wishes. On the other hand, decision-oriented research is always for the need of decision maker and the researcher. In this case, the researcher is not free to embark upon research according to his/her inclination.