

Research And its Types

Research:

In the broadest sense of the word, the definition of research includes any gathering of data, information and facts for the advancement of knowledge.

Types of research:

Types or classification of research is based on four objects:

1. Purpose of research:

- i. Explanatory research
- ii. Descriptive research
- iii. Exploratory research

2. The intended uses of research:

- i. Basic research
- ii. Applied research
 - a. Action research
 - b. Impact assessment research
 - c. Evolutional research

3. Time dimensions in research:

- i. Cross sectional research
- ii. Longitudinal research
- iii. Panel study research

4. The research technique used:

- i. Quantitative research
- ii. Qualitative research
- iii. Primary research
- iv. Secondary research

Purpose of research

Explanatory research:

Explanatory research attempts to clarify why and how there is a relationship between two or more than two aspects of situation and phenomenon. *It looks for causes and reasons. It builds on exploratory and descriptive research and goes on to identify the reasons for something that occurs.*

Descriptive research:

Descriptive research attempts to describe systematically a phenomenon, situation or a problem. *Descriptive research seeks to determine the answer to who, what, when, where and how questions. Labour force survey, population census and educational census are examples of such research.*

Exploratory research:

Exploratory research attempts to explore an area where little is known or to investigate the possibilities of undertaken a particular research study.

The intended use of research

Basic research:

Basic research is experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge without looking for long-term benefits other than the advancement of knowledge.

Applied Research:

Applied research is done to solve specific, practical question; for policy formulation, administration and understanding of phenomenon.

Action research:

Action research is a methodology that combines action and research to examine specific questions, issues or phenomena through observation and reflection, and deliberate intervention to improve practice.

Evolutional research:

Evaluation is the systematic assessment of the worth or merit of some object. Evaluation is the systematic acquisition and assessment of information to provide useful feedback about some object.

Time dimensions in research

Longitudinal research:

Longitudinal research is a type of research method used to discover relationships between variables that are not related to various background variables. This observational research technique involves studying the same group of individuals over an extended period of time.

Panel study:

A cohort study or panel study is a form of longitudinal study (a type of observational study) used in medicine, social science, actuarial science, and ecology. It is an analysis of risk factors and follows a group of people who do not have the disease, and uses correlations to determine the absolute risk of subject contraction. It is one type of clinical study design and should be compared with a cross-sectional study. Cohort studies are

largely about the life histories of segments of populations, and the individual people who constitute these segments.

The research technique used

Quantitative research:

Systematic empirical investigation of quantitative properties and phenomena and their relationships. Asking a narrow question and collecting numerical data to analyze utilizing statistical methods. The quantitative research designs are experimental, correlation, and survey (or descriptive). Statistics derived from quantitative research can be used to establish the existence of associative or causal relationships between variables.

Qualitative research:

Understanding of human behavior and the reasons that govern such behavior. Asking a broad question and collecting word-type data that is analyzed searching for themes. This type of research looks to describe a population without attempting to quantifiably measure variables or look to potential relationships between variables. It is viewed as more restrictive in testing hypotheses because it can be expensive and time consuming, and typically limited to a single set of research subjects. Qualitative research is often used as a method of exploratory research as a basis for later quantitative research hypotheses.

Primary research:

Using primary sources, i.e., original documents and data.

Secondary research:

Using secondary sources, i.e. a synthesis of, interpretation of, or discussions about primary sources.