

B.A.PART-II(SOCIOLOGY) PAPER-III (Methods of Social Research)

Topic-Meaning and characteristics of Social Research	By: Dr. Archana kumari
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Social Research

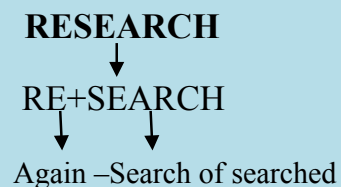
➤ Learning objectives:

- To understand the meaning and definitions of Social Research.
- To explain the characteristics of Social research.

➤ Introduction

Research is a process in which a series of steps are used to collect and analyze the information of increase our understanding of a topic or issue.

Research is systematic and organized effort to investigate a specific problem that needs a solution. It contributes to the general body of knowledge. It also corrects human knowledge. Actually research is simply the process of arriving as dependable solution to a problem through the planned and systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of a data. Research is the most important process for advancing knowledge for promoting progress and to enable man to relate more effectively to his environment to accomplish his purpose and to solve his conflicts. Although it is not the only way, it is one of the most effective ways of solving problems.



The Research means (search of searched) means to elicit some facts out to know thing. The term research consist of two words, 'Re'+ 'Search'. "Re" means again and again and "Search" means to find out something.

RESEARCH → Latin word → 'to know' or 'to go about seeking'

- In other side Research means:

R-retain

E-enroot

S-search

E-enigma

A-articulate

R-res gestae

C-contingency

H-herald

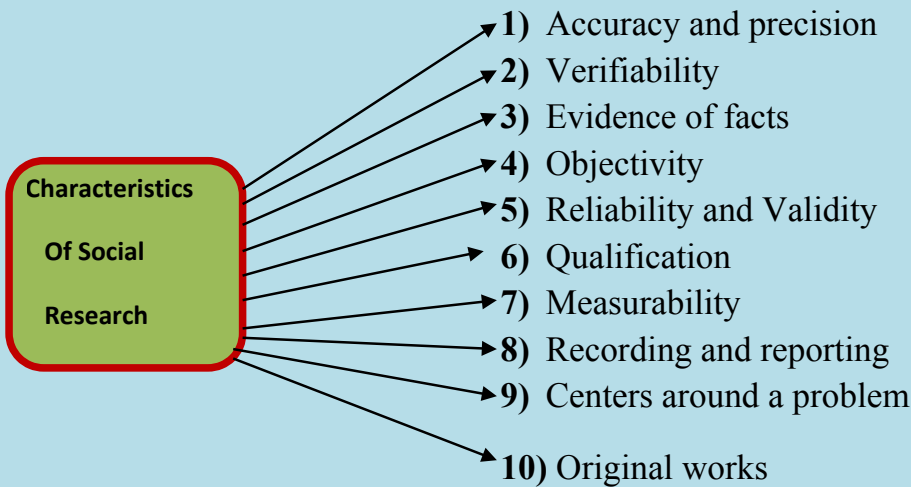
“Scientific research consists of obtaining information through empirical observation that can be used for systematic development of logically related propositions attempting to establish casual relations among variable”.

➤ **Social research:**

Social sciences are not exact science like physical sciences. It deals with human beings. Human nature and mans environment are so complex, that it is more difficult to comprehend and predict human behavior than the physical phenomena. Social science research is a systematic method of exploring, analyzing and conceptualizing human life in order to extend, correct or verify knowledge of human behavior and social life. Social research seeks to find explanations to unexplained phenomena, to clarify the doubtful and correct the misconceived fact of social life. It involves the application of scientific method for understanding and analyzing of social life in order to correct and verify the existing knowledge as a system. The main idea behind social research is to discover new inter relations, new knowledge, new facts and also to verify old ones. Human behavior may be involved by certain values and laws. The main purpose of social research is to discover those laws which can be proper guidelines for studying human contact and behavior. It is difficult see the underlying uniformities in the diversity of complex human behavior. Social research can be defined as the systematic and objective analysis and recording of controlled observations that may lead to the development of generalization, principles or theories resulting in prediction and possibly ultimate control of events in society. It attempts to answer or solve social problems.

- **According to C. A. Moser:** “Social research is a systematized investigation to gain new knowledge about social phenomenon and problems.”
- **According to P.V. Young:** “Social research is a scientific undertaking which by means of logical methods, aim to discover new facts or old facts and to analyze their sequences, interrelationships, casual explanations and natural laws which govern them.”
- **According to whitney:** “Sociological research includes a study of human group relationships”

➤ **Characteristics of social research:**



Followings are the main Characteristics of Social Research:

1) Accuracy & Precision

Accuracy and precision are also the basic requirements for a research. A researcher brought its views must be accurate and precise to the problematic situation. For example someone says that the illiteracy or literacy rate is rural areas is 100%. This statement is invalid and does not accurate to the rural areas. Instead of it he should say that the rural areas, s people are 50%, 60% or 80% illiterate. This would be acceptable.

2) Verifiability

Another characteristic of research is the researcher must verify the data. It must be subject for verifiability and testability. For example; the statement, “criminality is due to illiteracy among the people”. This proposition would be regarded as scientific fact because it verifies the observation that the ration of criminals among literate people is less as compared to illiterate.

3) Evidence of Facts

Research knowledge should be based on facts second hand information or hearing and say reports should not be added to the research study. It must have is original facts for which it is necessary.

4) Objectivity

Objectivity means that the reality must be shown in a research. Scientific research must have its real thing is and it must be clear from self or personal bias, prejudice, feelings of like and dislike etc.

5) Reliability & Validity

Truth is the canon of research. The research study must be true and valid to a great extent. No outwards information or self-created objects are included to a research study. The error should be finished.

6) Qualification

Qualification is the personal experience and skill of a researcher. The complete study of a problematic situation is possible when the researcher is qualified and known well about the existing problem.

7) Measurability

Various instruments, devices and scientific techniques are used for measuring and undertaking a problem for testing. Accurate measurement is required for researcher to measure the data collected from a problematic phenomenon.

8) Recording and Reporting

Every term should be defined and illustrate clearly. The procedure must be described in detail and the report should be written by the researcher to clarify the situation.

9) Centers around a Problem

The research must be focused on a point. It means that the study must be confined to a specific place and existing of a particular problem.

10) Original Works

Social research is clear from duplicate or copied information. It must have the original work not on the work done by other. Actually research starts from the point when the already existing knowledge ends.

➤ Conclusion

Social Research is a method used by social scientists and researchers to learn about people and societies so that they can design products/services that cater to various needs of the people. Different socio-economic groups belonging to different parts of a county think differently. Various aspects of human behavior need to be addressed to understand their thoughts and feedback about the social world, which can be done using Social Research.