

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY A.N. COLLEGE, PATNA

M.A. Semester – I

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Paper -3 Research Methodology

Unit-1

Types Of Research

Research can be classified into two broad categories:

1- From the point of view of contribution

(i) Fundamental research

a) Experimental research

b) Historical research

c) Philosophical research

(ii) Action research

(iii) Applied research

2- From the point of view of research

(i) Longitudinal approach

(ii) Cross-section approach

Types of Research:

Research can be classified from three perspectives

1. Application of research study
2. Objectives in undertaking the research
3. Inquiry mode employed

Research Application:

From the point of view of application, there are two broad categories of research:

1. **Pure research-** involves developing and testing theories and hypotheses that are intellectually challenging to the researcher but may or may not have practical application at the present time or in the future.
2. **Applied research** is done to solve specific, practical questions; for policy formulation, administration and understanding of a phenomenon. It can be exploratory, but is usually descriptive. It is almost always done on the basis of basic research.

Research Objectives:

From the viewpoint of objectives, a research can be classified as:

1. **Descriptive research** attempts to describe systematically a situation, problem, phenomenon, service or programme, or provides information about, say, living condition of a community, or describes attitudes towards an issue.
2. **Correlational research** attempts to discover or establish the existence of a relationship/ interdependence between two or more aspects of a situation.
3. **Explanatory research** attempts to clarify why and how there is a relationship between two or more aspects of a situation or phenomenon.
4. **Exploratory research** is undertaken to explore an area where little is known or to investigate the possibilities of undertaking a particular research study (feasibility study/pilot study).

Research Inquiry Mode:

From the process adopted to find answer to research questions – the two approaches are:

1. Structured approach

2. Unstructured approach

The structured approach to inquiry is usually classified as quantitative research. Here everything that forms the research process- objectives, design, sample, and the questions that you plan to ask of respondents- is predetermined.

It is more appropriate to determine the extent of a problem, issue or phenomenon by quantifying the variation. e.g. how many people have a particular problem?
How many people hold a particular attitude?

Unstructured approach:

The unstructured approach to inquiry is usually classified as qualitative research. This approach allows flexibility in all aspects of the research process. It is more appropriate to explore the nature of a problem, issue or phenomenon without quantifying it.