

# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY A.N. COLLEGE, PATNA

M.A. Semester – I

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## Paper -3 Research Methodology

### Unit-1

#### Introduction of Research:

Research is a logical and systematic search for new and useful information on a particular topic. It is an investigation of finding solutions to scientific and social problems through objective and systematic analysis. It is a search for knowledge, that is, a discovery of hidden truths. Here knowledge means information about matters. The information might be collected from different sources like experience, human beings, books, journals, nature, etc. A research can lead to new contributions to the existing knowledge. Only through research is it possible to make progress in a field. Research is done with the help of study, experiment, observation, analysis, comparison and reasoning. Research is in fact ubiquitous. More precisely, research seeks predictions of events and explanations, relationships and theories for them.

The word research is composed of two syllables, re and search. re is a prefix meaning again, anew or over again search is a verb meaning to examine closely and carefully, to test and try, or to probe. Together they form a noun describing a careful, systematic, patient study and investigation in some field of knowledge, undertaken to establish facts or principles.

## **Definitions of Research**

1. **According to Redman and Mory** – A systematized effort to gain new knowledge.
2. **According to Clifford Woody** – Research comprises defining and redefining problems, formulating a hypothesis or suggested solutions, collecting and evaluating data, making deductions and reaching conclusions.
3. **According to D.Slesinger** – The manipulation of things, concepts or symbols for the purpose of generalizing to extend, correct or verify knowledge aids in construction of theory or in the practice of an art.

**Scientific Research** : “Scientific Research is a systematic, controlled, empirical and critical investigation of hypothetical proposition about the presumed relations among the natural phenomena”. - F.N.Kerlinger (Source : Foundations of Behavioural Research, 1983 by Kerlinger)

Characteristics of Scientific Research :

- i) Scientific Research involves investigation of some hypothetical propositions.
- ii) Scientific Research is systematic and controlled.
- iii) Scientific Research is empirical.
- iv) Valid & verifiable

## **Characteristics of Research**

- Gathers new knowledge
- Emphasizes on discovery of new principles
- Employs reliable data gathering devices
- Research must be logical
- Objectivity
- Hypothesis oriented
- Organizes data in quantitative form
- Patient and persistent activity
- Leads to careful generalizations and conclusions

## **Objective of Research**

The purpose of research is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures. The main aim of research is to find out the truth which is hidden and which has not been discovered as yet. Though each research study has its own specific purpose, we may think of research objectives as falling into a number of following broad groupings:

### **Aims and Objectives of Research Methodology**

1. To gain familiarity with a phenomenon or to achieve new insights into it (studies with this object in view are termed as exploratory or formulative research studies);
2. To portray accurately the characteristics of a particular individual, situation or a group (studies with this object in view are known as descriptive research studies);
3. To determine the frequency with which something occurs or with which it is associated with something else (studies with this object in view are known as diagnostic research studies);
4. To test a hypothesis of a causal relationship between variables (such studies are known as hypothesis-testing research studies).