



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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ABSTRACT :

Research is a very powerful instrument of knowledge and development. It is as old as human civilization. It is a movement from known to workman. The method we employ for obtaining the knowledge of the 'unknown' is research. The term 'search' means to kind out, to know, to learn, to explore or to uninvestigated. 'Research' is basically an academic activity than univalves certain techniques.

KEYWORDS : *powerful instrument of knowledge and development.*

INTRODUCTION

It is a close, careful and systematic study of a subject. It consists of destining and read truing problems, formulating hypothesis, collecting information, organizing and evaluating it, analysis and interpretation of data and reaching to concrete concussions.

1. 'The Random House Dictionary defines the term research as "diligent and systematic inquiry or investigation into a subject in order to discover or revise facts, theories, applications etc."
2. According to Webster's new International dictionary, research is "Simply a systematic and refined technique of thinking".
3. New standard Encyclopedia define research as "A systematic investigation for the purpose of gaining new knowledge. In a broad sense, research is any study that leads to new knowledge for the person during research.
4. For oxford English dictionary "Research is a search or investigation directed to the discovery of some fact by careful consideration or study of a subject, a course of critical or scientific inquiry.
5. Rusk defines research as "a point of view, an attitude of inquiry or a frame & mind. It asks questions which have hither to not been asked and it seeks to answer them by trawling a fairly definite procedure. It is not mere theorizing, but rather an attempt to elicit facts and to face them once they assembled".
6. Francis Beckon states that "Research is a power of suspending judgment with pleasures, of asserting with caution, of correcting with readiness and of arranging with scrupulous plan."



Thus, we can derive certain basic features of research from the above definitions:

- i. Research aims at certain discovery of new facts and their correct information.
- ii. It is a systematic and critical investigation.
- iii. It can also be a revision of accepted laws or theories in the light of discovery of new facts.
- iv. It can be a practical application of new or revised conclusions or theories.

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- v. Research is an objective inquiry with an open mind.
 - vi. Research is directed towards a solution to a problem.
 - vii. It follows a definite method or procedure.
 - viii. It is some genuine contribution to knowledge.

WHAT IS A THESIS?

In general, the terms 'thesis' and 'dissertation' are used interchangeably. However, Paul Oliver says "there is perhaps a tendency for dissertation to be used more frequently in relation to master's degrees and thesis in connection with doctorates".

1. Webster's new college dictionary defines a thesis as "a dissertation advancing an original point of view as a result of research, especially as a requirement for an academic degree".
2. According to Beckson and Ganz a thesis is "a proposition to be maintained, especially one laid down for formal defense or proof.
3. Oxford ALD defines research as "a statement or an opinion that is discussed in a logical way and presented with evidence in order to prove that it is true".

A thesis should not be:

- i) An imitation
- ii) A repetition
- iii) A computation
- iv) An emotional appeal
- v) A biased document

A thesis should be:

- i) An argument with a purpose
- ii) A document with a clear team work
- iii) A logical/rational discourse complete in itself
- iv) A document contributing something new

A thesis is then, a pursuit of truth with the help of observation, analysis, comparison, interpretation, verification and evaluation.

Criticism, Scholarship & Research:

Criticism is a systematic commentary on a literary work of art. It's a critical comment or judgment. It is an art, skill or profession of making discriminating judgments. Research is away of becoming a scholar. Scholarship is the knowledge that results from extensive study and research. Research requires scientific objective investigation. It requires documentation and proofs which is not always present in criticism. In criticism, first person narration is an accepted practice, but it is not accepted as research. Research is, thus, more disciplined and methodical than criticism. Research is a problem oriented scientific investigation, while criticism is an expression of opinion, a judgment. Research and critical judgment make person a scholar.

CLASSIFICATION OF RESEARCH:

1. Bibliographical or Textual Research

Bibliography simply means a list of writings on a single subject. As per Webster's New College Dictionary, it means "description and identification of the editions, date of issue, authorship and typography of written material as books."

An appropriate study of a literary work or that of an author is possible when the text under discussion is clearly valid and authentic and its authorship is ago beyond any doubt. Sometime the necessary information about the concerned author is also not available or it is, it is controversial & debatable for example, controversial over the dates and writings of saint Dnyaneshwar and Sanskrit scholars like Bharat Muni, Batta Nayaka, Anandwardhan and Mukteshwar etc. Their texts also are disputable as they have been written and rewritten during the centurion by several persons by hand. This has created problems of time, authorship and

meaning of the texts. As research that carries out investigation in such areas is called bibliographical or textual research.

2. Biographical Research:

This type of research believes that there are connections and relationships between the events in the life of an author and his works. This type of study reveals the autobiographical elements in the work of an author. It discovers analogies between the work and the writer's life by identifying elements such as characters depicted after real people and incidents derived from personal experience. For example: Study of James Joyce's 'A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man' Research can be conducted here to explain, interpret and evaluate some disputable issues.

3. Theoretical Research:

Such research is concerned with theories of literary and literary criticism. Various '-isms' can be studied theoretically in order to have a disciplined theory in terms of literary creation and criticism. Theoretical research may propound a theory of literature or modify and improve a theory already in existence.

The theory of speech was first developed by Austin. However, Searle carried out further research on the same topic and came up with different dimensions. Grice's cooperative principle is replaced by theory and relevance proposed by Sperber and Wilson. The research in such areas is called theoretical research. It processes, examines, analyses, compares, evaluates and modifies the theories.

4. Interpretative Research :

It is also called as an applied research. In this type of research a text or an author is studied with reference to certain theory of literature, criticism or linguistics. That means, in an interpretative research, a theory is applied to a text. For example, Hamlet can be interpreted with the help of Freudian Psychology. Pragmatic concepts like conversational implicature are applied to dramatic discourse.

QUALITIES OF A GOOD RESEARCHER:

A researcher should have certain qualities essential to carry out extensive research work. The question of qualities of a good researcher bothers much more to a research supervisor than to the researcher himself. Therefore, the researchers should try to acquire these qualities at the initial stage. Following are the qualities of a good researcher:

1. Good Reader :

Every researcher must be a good reader. The researcher is expected to come to the supervisor with a topic of his choice which should be an outcome of his previous reading. Good reading requires several skills. Reading between the lines is the first requirement to be a good reader. While reading, a researcher should be able to differentiate between relevant and irrelevant sources. He should know that everything in print is not true. He should be selective while reading.

Moreover, reading with a purpose is an essential quality of a researcher. That is, he should be able to judge what will be useful in the future for what purpose. A researcher has to read before the selection of his research topic, during the proper course of research and even after the submission of thesis. It should be taken into consideration that good reading improves writing. A good reader develops his/her own style as reading influences the choice of words.

2. Research temperament:

Research work requires 'stable mind', rather cool & patient. It is patience that really pays in research. Curiosity is a mark of research temperament without curiosity; one cannot pursue the matter up to its logical end. Curiosity and inquiry go hand in hand. Research temperament does not get satisfaction until the rational solution is found out.

Constant dialogue with the self is the soul of research temperament. The actual exercise of research temperament is seen right from the background reading to the last chapter.

3. Capacity and willingness for Hard Work

It is really noteworthy to realize that a research project is 'intellectual', 'creative' as well as 'clerical'. In fact, the third is always more than the first two. What we call hard work is actually like the clerical work. It is required in data coactions, taking down the notes, preparing the drafts, preparing the bibliography, documentation and references, marking the revisions, redrafting and corrections, proof reading and the writing itself. A lot of hard work is required to communicate the intellectual and creative in a thesis. Hard work is necessary particularly for data collection. One has to spend hours in library, take down the notes and details of the sources and time some internet browsing. Without strong willingness, one cannot work really hard. It also needs physical and mental stamina to work for hours continually.

4. Motivation :

A researcher needs a strong motivation because; research work cannot be carried out in a short span of time. However, the psychology of one's motivation is really a mysterious thing. Ambition is one of the strong motivations because ambition is a driving force behind every successful human activity. There are number of agents or factors that provide motivation - a good teacher, a rival, an ideal person, good salary promised, aspiration for a position, a person who is dearer and nearer, thirst for knowledge and scholarship etc.

5. Intellectual Discipline:

Discipline is the backbone of research. It requires a remarkable control and previous exercise. Intellectual discipline is generally perceived in speech and writing. Research requires a predetermined frame work, as in republic day parade, an excellent example of discipline. In research, noting is abrupt of sudden, nothing like 'spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings'. Logical planning and rational argument are the aspects of intellectual discipline in research. A thesis is neither a matter of over communication nor of under communication. It is an act of adequate and 'just' communication. This is a significant mark of intellectual discipline in research.

Research consists of analysis, interpretation, verification and evaluation along with synthesis and organization of data. Conducting all these activities within the 'preplanned framework' is intellectual discipline. In fact, research cultivates this faculty, but it should be already present in its minimum required quantity.

6. Imagination

In practical matters, it is really difficult to separate 'intellect' from 'imagination'. Imagination controlled by reason (Wright brothers - plane) can be called intellect. Imagination plays a very significant role in research. In the formation of hypothesis, even in science, imagination has its significant role. Hypothesis is not a product of calculation; it is the mysterious power of our mind. Imagination is also necessary while preparing the design and research project. Any research work needs to be comprehensive and every part should contribute to the whole.

7. Sense of relevance

Research is conducted to improve our sense of relevance. Education and intelligence means sense of relevance. In research, a student should not what is relevant for his purpose and what is irrelevant. This quality of mind keeps the irrelevant matter out of consideration and saves time, energy & sometimes money of the researcher. A researcher finds every enlightening remarks and attractive quotations while collecting data. He is often tempted by the experience and ideas. In research such attractive ideas and expression that are irrelevant, should be avoided. Sense of relevance is necessary for - drafting the initial synopsis, preparing the design of the research work, drawing conclusions or findings, drafting final synopsis and preparing the abstract.

If the findings and hypothesis have no logical connections, the entire exercise becomes futile. The method selected for research should be relevant to the objectives. The conclusions should be relevant to the method used and the objectives set. In fact, the entire thesis is built on the basis of principle of relevance. Any

irrelevant matter is a thesis is supposed to be defect. Everything in thesis must have some meaning for function to perform.

8. Scientific Attitude

As research is a systematic and well planned study, its nature is basically scientific. Scientific attitude is always free from bias. If the arguments are promoted by certain implied motives and partial views, they result in half truth. It is necessary for a researcher to judge the data and information available or made available for him. He may start with certain hypothesis but the research may reveal something else. At that time, a researcher should have scientific attitude to accept the natural result. A good researcher, therefore, should have scientific attitude.

9. Language Skills

Language is the medium of research and research in literature and language requires higher proficiency in the language concerned. There are two basic factors involved - 1) the understanding of literature and language 2) drafting the research thesis. A researcher should have the proficiency in language skills, otherwise he may not understand the subtleties and complexities of language. Moreover he should be able to communicate all the complexities and implications through his research work. In the drafting of a thesis, the research student should ensure clarity and brevity in order to be comprehensive and effective. Modern linguistic theories have revealed the relationship between thought and language. They say that language influences one's thought process.

A research in literature and language has to have a comprehensive perspective of aesthetic beauty in literature. He has to communicate it in language. Language skills, thus, are very essential and crucial. A researcher should have acquired the skill before he starts his research work.

10. Courage

A good researcher should have courage for three reasons: 1) His research may lead him to some conclusions or finding that may not match his expectations. Hence, he needs moral courage to accept the findings. 2) It may be necessary for him to reveal certain drawbacks of his favorite author or some other person of high esteem, position or respect. Hence, researcher may find himself in two minds. In such a context, he should have courage to present the truth. 3) It is likely that his view may be criticized by others. At this point, he should have the courage to make suitable amendments in his views, if it is necessary. It requires courage as well as open-mindedness. But at the same time, if the criticism on his research is biased and if he feels that no amendments are necessary, he should have courage to defend his position.

However, every researcher cannot have all the qualities listed above. But it is necessary for him to know what are the qualities that a good researcher needs. This awareness will be kind enough to help him and he will try to be like the ideal one.

Procedures Involved in Research / Techniques:

1. Observation :

Generally we learn things about the world through observation. We make use of our senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste. It is most useful method when we have to narrate or report events.

2. Interviews :

Face to face interview with a person or a group is another process involved in research. This method is used when one has to collect information or opinions of one or more persons concerned with the topic and research.

3. Questionnaires :

Written questionnaire is yet another device through which research is carried out. The questionnaire presents a series of carefully selected questions to several people who have been selected, mostly, deliberately.

4. Experiments :

Controlled experimentation is a common procedure or technique used in physical research. Researches in science regularly conduct experiments to discover new facts or to confirm theories and assumptions.

5. Reading :

Reading is a great source for finding out facts, opinions, insights and inter predations. For centuries, writing or printing was the chief method of recording and transmitting information. It is printed matter that provides the material we need.

Sweet flowers are slow but weeds make haste

- William Shakespeare

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