

## An Epigrammatic Investigation on Fundamentals of Research

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### Abstract:

The present research paper explores an epigrammatic investigation on fundamentals of research and its objectives, importance, characteristics, nature, scope, types, qualities of a good researcher and research proposal as an agreed format.

In India research is a blooming industry. Research is significant in all the fields of life such as science, society, law and literary areas. It gives the gratification of knowing the unfamiliar. Research directs communal and business planning. It also helps in decision making process. Research is the result of man's strong desire to learn, to know and to satisfy his thirst for knowledge about the world. It involves hard effort, sincere application to the subject and tremendous practice. While doing research, Citation Index record of Indian Research and its international recognition need to be identified. Right mindset, resources, discipline, time, genuine involvement, training, aptitude, presentation skills, creativity are the causes of quality lacuna for lack of research ambience. Thinking out of the box / lateral thinking is not encouraged to the greater extent, which enormously affects on the research.

The researcher should apply the principles of deep consideration and proper selection. Detailed analysis, careful and intelligent approach of point of view and objective treatment may be the hallmarks of a research work. Vigilance is the price of research. In fact, research is a time bound activity and it is strongly result oriented. It requires meticulous planning and efficient execution.

**Key Words:** Research and its objectives, importance, characteristics, nature, scope, types, qualities of researcher, Research Proposal

### What is Research?

The origin of the word 'research' is mainly results from the French word 'recherche'. Its literal meaning is a systematic process of collecting and analyzing information (data) in order to discover new knowledge. Research means a search for knowledge. It is a voyage of discovery.

John Best comments about the research,

*'Research is the process of systematically obtaining accurate answers to significant and pertinent questions by the use of the scientific method of gathering and interpreting information.'*

Research is a process / art of systematic / scientific investigation and objective inquiry for the purpose of gaining new knowledge. F.R.Leavis asserts,

*'Research should be able to generate in the university a centre of human conscience,*

*perception, knowledge, judgment and responsibility.'*

Research is an in-depth critical exploration into a problem, a subject, an issue, a body of work of a specific genre so as to arrive at some new / original / unexplored meanings / answers / solutions / information / interpretation.

Academic activity through disciplined / systematic efforts presented in an agreed format is called as research. This agreed format is known as Research Proposal. P.V. Young states,

*'Research is a method of studying, analyzing and conceptualizing social life in order to extend, modify, correct or verify whether that knowledge helps in construction of theory or in practice of an art.'*

Research is the product of intelligence and workmanship. Research is an original contribution to knowledge with proper documentation. Academic research is a long term commitment. Research is

primordial, ancient and ubiquitous. Albert Gyorgi comments,

*‘Research is to see what everybody else has seen and to think what nobody else has thought.’*

Research has a scientific base and a undeviating alteration. Research is a search for the truth and development of new knowledge. The acronym of **RESEARCH** is: **Regularity, Enthusiasm, Sincerity, Efficiency, Adaptation, Relevance, Continuity and Happiness.**

Wrestler International Dictionary proclaims,

*‘Research is a intellectual enquiry or assessment, decisive exploration or testing. Its aim is to find out innovative and correct information.’*

**• Objectives of Research:**

The objective of this research study is to study and examine: Research and its objectives, importance, characteristics, nature, scope, types, qualities of good researcher and research proposal.

Curiosity is the strong motive behind research. Research contributes to the body of knowledge and widens our perspective of the subject.

- a. To verify and test the existing theories, facts and hypothesis
- b. To study individual behaviour and social action
- c. To study cause and effect relation pertaining to the phenomenon under study
- d. To gain a sense of continuity and awareness about the unknown things
- e. To sharpen the critical approach, insight and literary sensibility
- f. To develop new theories, generalizations, principles and concepts
- g. To cultivate one’s own ability for abstract things
- h. To create a sense of belongingness and a feeling of curiosity
- i. To improve research techniques
- j. To analyze the inter-relationship between the different variables relating to the subject
- k. To broaden the mind and sharpen the critical insight and literary sensibility of human life
- l. To diagnose, evaluate and understand the various social and business problems and the implications in the working of business house.

- m. To create genuine interest among the researchers and direct them to see the beauty and bounty of human world through their fresh, innovative and new perspectives and lenses.
- n. It makes the researcher more aware of human society, human mind and human concern.
- o. It helps in developing the powers of understanding and appreciating the literary texts, a treasure of human happiness and contentment.
- p. To improve the operating efficiency, productivity, profitability and functioning of different organizations in the society.
- q. Research is a kind of visa for the untraveled human world which is full of complexities and intricacies.

**• Materials and Research Methodology:**

The data and information presented in this study are analyzed, scrutinized and verified on the basis of theoretical and analytical approach. The facts are proven through statistical and theoretical mode wherever required.

**• Importance of Research:**

Research is the systematic enquiry of facts through objectives and methods. It is a method of decisive philosophy. Research is important in following manner.

- a. Idea is known as new interpretation.
- b. Analysis and observation is carried out on new data.
- c. Known ideas are presented in a new setting
- d. Application of a known method from another for the development of the subject
- e. An evaluation of an existing theory, proposition or practice
- f. A historical/developmental/evolutionary treatment of the subject.
- g. Research helps to develop a particular science.
- h. The subject is viewed from a new perspective

**• Nature and Possibility of Research:**

Research is an intensive and purposeful search for knowledge and understanding of social and physical phenomenon. It is a technique for the detection of factual principles in a methodical approach. The purpose of research is to reach new



conclusion to establish facts, to study a subject scientifically and to verify the knowledge. Research is result oriented. Research can develop a general and systematic set as theories from which hypothesis can be generated and tested.

- **Distinctiveness of Research:**

- a. **Research instigates with an inquiry**

Research tries to solve infinite unanswered, unsettled and unresolved questions. Therefore research begins with different questions and ends with possible solutions.

- b. **It requires systematic plan**

The overall research efforts must be explicitly planned and logically designed. The researcher plans his overall research design and specific research methods in a purposeful way.

- c. **Research acknowledges vital suppositions**

In the process of research, assumption is important but the assumption should be valid and acceptable. A careful researcher sets forth a statement of the assumption as his study rests and proceeds on it.

- d. **Research is extremely purposeful:**

It deals with a significant problem which demands a solution.

- e. **It entails interpretation of data**

In research, unprocessed data by the human brain is worthless because interpretation of subjective data demands proper process. It depends entirely on the logical abilities and reasoning skills of the researcher.

- f. **Problem or hypothesis guides the research:**

Each problem is viewed through a hypothesis. A hypothesis is a rational assumption, a logical speculation or tentative resolution to a problem. It may direct your thinking to the possible source of information that will help in resolving the research problem.

- g. **It emphasizes on the development of generalizations:**

The discovery of scientific generalizations guides the future course of action. It also provides solution to reveal problems of people.

- h. **Research has the basis of data and observations:**

Research is the work of interest and courage. The researcher maintains the systematic record of data. Conclusions based on unrecorded data are not trustworthy. Such recorded data are believed and trusted. The researcher analyzes the problem on their basis.

- i. **Research is a cautiously documented action:**

In research, the terms are carefully defined. The procedures are described in detail. References are carefully documented. The results are objectively recorded.

- j. **Research has inventive temperament:**

Research is primarily the vocation of aptitude or intelligence. Therefore reality cannot be its sole base. The language of literature is different from the language used in day to day communication. So the study of meaning suggested in literature is the main field of literary research.

- k. **Research requires patience:**

It requires painstaking efforts of the researcher. It makes research a prolonged activity. It takes much time and patience on the part of the researcher.

- l. **Research is rational and free from personal opinions:**

The data and the procedures used are constantly verified by various tests. The researcher builds only those generalizations which directly come out of the data.

- m. **Research is methodical and truthful:**

In research, the procedures are planned carefully. The data is congregated and scrutinized with exactness. Proper methods and tools are used for the collection of data. The whole process is organized and controlled properly.

- n. **Research investigate original acquaintance:**

Research throws light on unknown facts. Research does not mean to recognize what is already known or proved.

- **Types of Research:**
  - a. Basic / Fundamental / Pure Research:**  
It is related with overview and formulation of assumption. It has a pursuit for knowledge. It is conducted to establish a new theory or to verify old one. It is concerned with some natural phenomenon.
  - b. Applied Research / Action Research:**  
It is concerned with showing how the findings can be applied or summarized into some type of teaching methodology. Its purpose is to find out a clarification for an instantaneous quandary facing to the humanity, trade or an association. It is an enquiry or research in the context of focused efforts to improve the quality of an organization and its performance. It is designed and conducted by practitioners who analyze the data to improve their own practice.
  - d. Pragmatic Research:**  
The research based on understanding or interpretation is called as pragmatic research. It is data based research, in which first hand facts are main sources of information, evidences gathered through empirical studies or experiments. It makes propositions resulting from experiments involving laboratory or field research. Researcher collects data to prove or disprove his hypothesis.
  - e. Analytical Research:**  
Here the researcher uses the facts or information already available. The facts are analyzed to make a critical evaluation of the material. It employs advanced statistical techniques like correlation analysis.
  - f. Qualitative Research:**  
It is subjective, interpretive and natural. Its focus is complex and broad. It refers to the implications, perceptions, classifications, uniqueness, descriptions, symbols etc. The researcher collects, analyzes and interprets the collected data. It gains insight concerning attitudes, beliefs, motivations and behaviors of individuals to explore human problems.
  - g. Quantitative Research:**  
It is objective, measurable and experimental in nature. Its focus is concise and narrow. It is concerned with measurement of attitudes, behaviors and perceptions. It involves the use of structured questions where the response options have been prearranged and a large number of respondents are involved.
  - h. Longitudinal Research:**  
The research, which is carried on several time periods, is called as longitudinal research.
  - i. Descriptive Research:**  
It includes surveys and fact finding enquiries of different kinds. Here researcher has no control over variables. It describes the current state of affairs. The researcher cannot control variables. He just answers the questions what and why. It can be static, dynamic or historical in nature. In social research, it is called as Ex-Post Facto Research.
  - j. Conceptual Research:**  
It is related to some abstract idea or theory. It is generally used by philosophers and thinkers to develop new concepts or to interpret existing ideas.
  - k. Exploratory Research:**  
It is a preliminary study of the subject matter of the phenomenon. It is assumed that the researcher has no knowledge or little knowledge of the problem under study. It is based on the secondary data. Here development of hypothesis is more important than testing.
  - l. Textual Research:**  
It is related with the establishment of an authoritative text, correction of past editions, authenticity and attribution.
  - m. Biographical Research:**  
It is concerned with the understanding of an author's mind and art. The biographer has to collect material from different sources, study the author's published and unpublished works, interview the author if he is alive and collect information from the people who know the author.



**n. Theoretical Research:**

It can be compared with research in natural and social sciences. Its aim is to propound a theory of literature or modify an already existing one.

**o. Interpretive Research:**

It analyses, interprets and evaluates a literary text by applying the principles of a particular theory. It may be a study of an author's style, use of imagery, symbolism and the structure of the text.

**p. Historical Research:**

The research, in which historical records, documentations, study of past events, is used to prove something.

**q. Field Research:**

The research, which is carried in actual domain of problem, i.e. instead of working in labs, the researcher actually works in live situation, is called as field research.

**r. Laboratory Research:**

The research, that is carried on in laboratory is called laboratory research.

**s. Formalized Research:**

It is the research which has specific approach, test a specific hypothesis based on substantial structure.

**t. Diagnostic Research:**

It is the research which emphasizes discovery of what is happening, why it is happening and what can be done about it. It attempts to identify the causes of a problem and its possible solutions. It also seeks to explore association between two or more variables. It uses small sample sizes and very deep probing data gathering devices.

**• Qualities of a Good Researcher:**

**1. A Good Reader / wide sided of Reading**

A research scholar should be able to read between the lines with a clear purpose. Good reading helps the researcher to select the topic properly and also to prepare bibliography and subject notes. Reading enables the researcher to select the topic, to write the thesis and to submit the thesis for the viva voce. Researcher should have the knowledge of

social and intellectual background, major literary movements, approaches to literature and ancient literature and myths. He should have a working knowledge of linguistics, psychology, Christianity and sociology.

**2. Research Temperament:**

Researcher should be emotional and curious. Research is a type of quest and without inquisitiveness one cannot track the subject upto its reasonable conclusion. The research should have enquiring mind because curiosity and enquiry go hand in hand. Constant dialogue with the self is the soul of research temperament.

**3. Capacity & willingness for hard work**

Whole process of research work requires hard work. The clerical aspect of the thesis requires more hard work. Research requires manual, creative and intellectual efforts. The writing of thesis requires much work. It needs revision and modification. Data collection and drafting requires much time and energy. The guide returns the draft with the instructions and it is quite hard to rewrite / retype the draft. Thus researcher needs physical and mental stamina for writing the thesis.

**4. Self Motivation**

Research requires a long span of time. The researcher should be ambitious because ambition is one of the strong motivations. Motivation is quite necessary for research. The research without motivation is a hard nut to crack.

**5. Intelligence:**

Discipline is the backbone of the research. Logical planning and rational argument are the main aspects of intellectual discipline in research. It is needed for analysis, interpretation, evaluation, synthesis and organization of the collected data.

**6. Imagination**

Imagination is required in analysis, comparison, interpretation and evaluation. Hypothesis requires imagination. In fact, imagination is the mysterious power of mind. It makes research possible because sudden ideas strike our mind and thesis ideas are interpreted and verified their validity. Imagination is necessary for preparing the design of the research project. Thus imagination makes research creative.

**7. Sense of Relevance**

The researcher should decide the purpose of research is relevant or irrelevant. It keeps the relevant matter out of consideration. Consequently the time, energy and money of the researcher are saved. It is necessary for drafting the initial synopsis, preparing the design, drawing conclusions, preparing the abstract and drafting the final synopsis. Similarly the methods selected for research should be relevant to the objectives. The conclusions should be relevant to the method and objectives. Thus the entire thesis is built upon the basis of principle of relevance.

### 8. Scientific Attitude

Entire research is basically scientific as it is systematic and well planned study. Researcher needs scientific attitude for judging the data which are available to him.

### 9. Courage

A research requires courage for accepting unwanted findings, to reveal certain drawbacks of his favorite writer and to bear the criticism on his research work. The researcher should protect his opinions audaciously.

### 10. Proficiency in Language Skills

Researcher should know LSRW Skills so that he could be able to familiarize with the complexities of language. It enables the researcher to communicate all the implications of literary language through his research work. The drafting and clarity of writing thesis also need proficiency in language. Thus language skills play a crucial role in the research process.

### 11. Command of language:

The author expresses his views through the medium of language. The researcher tries to understand them by analyzing the language of the text. In order to understand the text properly, the researcher need a good command over language. He should possess sufficient vocabulary of English. He should be familiarizing with semantic changes.

### 12. Devotion & Dedication to Learning

Researcher should not think of material gains. Money, fame and prestige are the by-products of research. He should work for the benefits of mankind and for the advancement of knowledge. He should work happily thinking that his research on an author or a text will be a contribution to knowledge.

### 13. Skepticism

Researcher scholar should be skeptic in his investigation. He must not take everything at its face value. In some sources, wrong information is provided, authors and their friends are not reliable, there may be mistakes in dates, many times facts are concealed and second hand information is provided.

### • Research Proposal:

Research proposal means to mention what the researcher proposes to do in his research work. It is mostly written in future tense. It tells the reader what and how the research student is going to research. It reveals the research problem, research plan, scope and limitations of research work. It is the synopsis/chapter scheme/outline of research project.

### Steps in Research Proposal:

Certain steps are followed for writing the proposal.

1. It should be written in clear language. It should be understood clearly. There should be clear thinking.
2. It should be written in simple language. The words should be simple and sentences should be shorter. Paragraphs should be small one.
3. The proposal should be explanatory in nature. The researcher should explain the ideas properly. Be explicit and present your argument in straightforward manner.
4. The language of proposal should be common. It is shared by both researcher and the reader.
5. The proposal should have brevity. Minimize jargons, slangs etc.

### Outline / Aspects of Research Proposal:

A brief description of the research plan / proposal includes:

#### a. The title:

It reveals the content of the research project in a few but effective words.

#### b. Introduction:

It gives the background information of the research project.

#### c. Statement of the problem:

It reveals the subject matter of the research work.

#### d. Survey of the Literature:



It is the survey of the work done in the research area. It gives the information about the context and background of the research.

**e. Hypothesis:**

It is the tentative solution / explanation of the research.

**f. Research methodology and techniques to be used**

Here the researcher explains the research methods and techniques used by him.

**g. Rationale of the significance of the study**

It tells about the justification, validation and significance of the study.

**h. Aims and objectives:**

The researcher mentions few significant aims and objectives of the research.

**i. Scope and Limitations:**

Researcher reveals the scope and limitations of research project.

**j. Plan of Research:**

It is the tentative division of research project into chapters. He decides number of chapters as per the subject of research.

**k. The conclusions expected and their possible value**

The researcher provides expected conclusions as well as the possible value of the research work.

**l. Bibliography / References / Works Cited:**

Researcher, at the end of chapter / thesis cites the references used by him from several books, journals, periodicals, internet sources etc.

Thus research proposal is a brief framework of the proposed study. It enables the researcher to concentrate on the relevant topics. It is a document that outlines how you propose to undertake your research studies.

**Conclusion:**

Summing up the article, we can conclude that research is an organized and systematic way of finding answers to questions. It is a planned procedure and is focused and limited to a specific scope. There is a definite set of procedures and steps which the researchers have to follow. In order to get the desired result, it is necessary to follow the specific steps or methodology. Research is a conclusion / a quest / search / explaining / examining / asking questions / finding out the facts. Thus research is the critical analysis of a particular text. It is a methodic progression of collecting and analyzing information to amplify our understanding of the observable fact under study.

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