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Exam = Mid Term (Spring)

Paper = Research Philosophy

Q1- Pizam and Mansfield (2009) mentioned some regarding positivism and interpretivism. Explain those assumptions from both perspective in detail?

Ans Positivism Definition:-

Positivism is the term used to describe an approach to the study of society that relies specifically on scientific evidence - such as experiments and statistics, to reveal a true nature of how society operates.

Interpretivism Definition:-

Interpretivism, also known as interpretivist involves researchers to interpret elements of the study, thus interpretivism integrates human interest into a study.

PIZAM And MANSFELD (2009)

Assumptions	Positivism	Interpretivism
Nature of Reality	Objective, Tangible, Single	Socially Constructed Multiple
Goal of Research	Explanation, Strong Prediction	Understanding Weak Prediction
Focus of Interest	What is general average and Representative	What is specific Unique and deviant

Pizam and Mansfield (2009)

They describe Three kinds of Assumptions of Positivism and Interpretivism

- (1) Nature of reality
- (2) Goal of research
- (3) Focus on interest

Explanation

(I) Nature of Reality - Assumption of Positivism -

Positivism is based on "Positive" real fact not abstract deductions. Positivism asserts that knowledge should be based on observation and experiment. No attempt should be made to understand or interpret the essence of things -

The three central tenets of positivism identified by commentators are:-

(1) Phenomenalism:

That the Data of Science is Direct observable empirical phenomena.

2-

Casuality:- That phenomena are interrelated via casual propositions

-3-

Objectivism:- that scientific enquiry should be Objective and value free, its methods should be independent of the researcher, repeatable and reliable.

Essentially, this implies that the methodologies of the natural Science are applicable to all realms of Science, that the Ultimate aim should be casual laws and that the Researcher should simply adopt an instrumental value neutral approach.

Goal of Research (Positivism)

In Positivism we have Strong Prediction about Research - Positivism is the Name for the Scientific study of the Social world - its goal is to formulate abstract and Universal laws on the operative dynamics of Social Universe. A law is statement about Relationships among forces in the Universe - In positivism laws are to be tested against collected data.

2. Focus on Interest :-

Positivism Depends on quantifiable observation that lead themselves to Statistical analysis. In positivism studies the researcher is independent from the study. we can say Positivism usually adopt Deductive approach, The positivist needs to concentrate on facts.

Assumption of Interpretivism.

1. Nature of Reality

Interpretivism is of the opinion that human life can only be understood. Human activities cannot be observed from some external reality. Reality is multi-layered and complex and a single phenomenon can have multiple interpretations. Interpretivism therefore focuses on people's subjective experience, on how people "construct" the social world by sharing

meanings -

2 Goal of Research

The term "interpretive research" is often used loosely and synonymously with "Qualitative research", although the two concepts are quite different. In interpretivism we have weak prediction. Interpretive research is a research paradigm that is based on the assumption of that social reality is not singular or objective, but is rather shaped by human experiences and social context. Therefore best studied within its socio-historic context by reconciling the subjective interpretations of it's various participants. Because interpretive researchers view social reality -

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Q 1

Focus on Interest :-

Interpretivists avoid rigid structural frameworks such as in Positivist research and adopt a more personal and flexible research structures which are receptive to capturing meanings in human interaction and make sense of what is reality -



Q2 When we want to compare positivism with interpretivism which philosophy do you think is better and why? Argue in detail?

Ans Comparing Positivism with Interpretivism.

Positivism and Interpretivism are the two basic approaches to research methods in sociology. Positivist prefer scientific quantitative methods, while interpretivists prefer humanistic qualitative methods. This post provides a very brief overview of the two.

Positivism have strong prediction and

Interpretivism have LESS strong / weak prediction.

I think positivism is better than interpretivism. Both have equal uses in research but I will choose positivism

Because positivism prefer quantitative methods such as social surveys, structured questionnaire and official statistics because these have good reliability and representativeness.

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Positivism See Society as shaping the individual and believe that social facts, shape individual action. The Positivist tradition stresses the importance of doing quantitative research such as large scale surveys in order to get an overview of society as a whole and uncover social trends, such as the relationship between educational achievement and social class. This type of sociology is more interested in trends and patterns rather than individuals. In positivism / positivist research, sociologists tend to look for relationships, or 'correlations' between two or more variables.

This is known as the comparative method

Interpretivism: An Interpretivist approach to social research would be much more qualitative, using methods such as unstructured interviews or participant observation.

Q 3 Please write in detail what you have learned during the course and how did you find the course in relation to your Job or experience

Ans In this course we learnt about that Research philosophy deals with the source, nature and development of knowledge. In simple term a research philosophy is belief about the ways in which data about a phenomenon should be collected, analyzed and used. Generally we know about that the research philosophy has many branches related to a wide range of disciplines. In research philosophy we have four research philosophies.

- 1- Pragmatism
- 2- Positivism
- 3- Realism
- 4- Interpretivism.

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Q = 3

we know these four research philosophies method-

The Course is related to Your Jobs Experience

This course is very useful for my experience because before this course I did not know about how to do research. How to start research in which ways before this course I do not know about that which kind of philosophies we can learnt/used in our Research. And Now I know about this course and now I am enable to do research due to studies about different Research philosophies and now I know about their methods. This course will help me InshALLAH in Future that how to do Research, how to start Research what kind of Research we can Used.