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PAPER: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Q1 (a): List down different steps involved in research process?

Answer: Different steps involved in research paper are:

1. Formulating a research problem (Deciding)
2. Conceptualizing the research design
3. Constructing an instrument for data collection (Planning)
4. Selecting a sample
5. Writing a research proposal
6. Collecting data
7. Processing Data (Doing)
8. Writing a research report.

Q1 (b): Explain different steps involve in formulating research problem?

Answer: Steps in the formulation of a research problem:

1. identify a broad field or subject area of interest to you.

This is a great idea to thinking about the subject area of your interest. You should identify the field in which you would like to work a long time after your academic study or graduation. It will help you tremendously to get an interesting research topic. For example- if you do graduation in sociology, you must decide your research study area in sociology. You might choose social problems like unemployment, road accident, community health, HIV/AIDS, etc.

2. Dissect the broad area in to subareas.

In this stage, you need to dissect and specify your research broad study area into some subareas. You would consult with your supervisor in this regard. Write down subareas. For example- if you select unemployment as your broad study area, then dissect it into unemployment & social stability, unemployment & crime, unemployment & individual frustration, etc. In this case, your research title maybe how unemployment produces criminal activities. Or how it creates frustration in mind among unemployed people.

3. Select what is of most interest to you?

It is almost impossible to study all subareas. That's why you must identify your area of interest. You should select issues in which you are passionate about. Your interest must be the most important determinant of your research study. Once you selected your research

study of interest, you should delete other subareas in which you do not feel interested. Keep in mind that if you lose your interest in your research study it won't bring any results eventually.

4. Raise research questions

In this step in formulating a research problem, you would point out your research questions under the area of interest as you decided in the previous stage. If you select unemployment as your study area, your questions might be "how unemployment impacts on individual social status?" "How it affects social stability?" "How it creates frustration on individuals?" Define what research problem or question you are going to study? The more you study the research problem it will be just as relevant and fruitful to solve the problem indeed.

5. Formulate objectives

– Main objectives

- Overall statement of the thrust of your study
- the statement of the main associations and relationships that you seek to discover or establish

– Sub objectives

- should be listed numerically
- each sub objective contain only one aspect of the study

6. Assess your objectives (feasibility in terms of time, resources data availability etc.)

Now, you should evaluate your objectives to make sure the possibility of attaining them through your research study. Assess your objectives in terms of time, budget, resources and technical expertise at your hand. You should also assess your research questions in light of reality. Determine what outcome will bring your study. If you can assess accurately the purpose of the research study it will bring significant results in the long run. In fact, research objectives determine the value of the study you are going to work out.

7. Double check (go back and give final considerations).

Before you go on research work you should review all steps in formulating a research problem and all the things that you have done till now for the purpose of your research study. Then, ask yourself about your enthusiasm. Do you have enough resources to step up? If you are quite satisfied, then you forward to undertake your research work. You can change any of your plans in the light of reality if it requires.

Q2 (a): A traditional research design is a blue print or detailed plan for how a research study is completed, list steps involved in planning a research study?

Answer:

A traditional research design is a blue print or a detailed plan for how a research study is to be completed. It includes:

1. operationalizing variables so that they can be measured
2. Selecting a sample of interest to study
3. Collecting data to be used as a basis for testing hypothesis

The functions of a hypothesis;

- to conduct a research study requires a hypothesis but it is not essential in gradient.
- However, a hypothesis is important in terms of bringing clarity to the research problem. It serves the following functions:
 - Provides a study with focus
 - Tells you what data to collect
 - It enhances the objectivity in the study.
 - Enables to formulate a theory since it helps in concluding what is true

4. Analyzing the results.

Having the structure of a report or presentation can help to make sense of your analysis and note down findings. It can force you to look at what the most significant themes and outcomes of your research are rather than getting bogged down by the detail.

Q2 (b): Differentiate between Qualitative and Quantitative Methods of research.

Answer:

QUALITATIVE METHOD:

It allows you to formulate a hypothesis and this data collective will mainly be expressed in words. It requires a smaller size. The data is analyzed by summarizing, categorizing and interpreting. Qualitative methods are focusing on things that are up to discussion and debates. It describes a lot of things. It will use surveys, observations and interviews. It will look for language and religion. It asks questions which deals with 'what' and 'how', it asks for an open ended question.

QUANTITATIVE METHOD:

It allows you to test hypothesis so you can expect to see data collective with this approach will mainly be expressed in numbers. It also requires a larger sample size. These numbers are then analyzed to a math, statistical analysis. It deals with definitively proven something. For example, a Geographer is looking at an area, he is going to look for its economic data, the political description, population background through age, gender, the things which are concrete and are based on facts, and you cannot break or dispute them.

Q4: How study design is selected based on nature of investigation?

Answer:

Study design based on the nature of investigation.

1. Experimental

1. If a relationship is studied by starting from the cause to establish the effects, it is called experimental study

2. The independent variables can be observed, introduced, manipulated, or controlled by the researcher or someone else.

2. Non- experimental

1. If a study focuses on starting from the effects to trace the cause, it is classified as a non- experimental study.

2. Variables cannot be introduced/manipulated etc. As the assumed cause has already occurred. Instead, the researcher retrospectively links the cause to the outcome

3. Quasi or semi- experimental

1. A mixture of traits of both experimental and non- experimental study designs.