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**SUBJECT = RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY**

**ASSIGNMENT**

## Assignment

1. Write Detailed note on Positivism?

**Definition:** Positivism is a philosophical system deeply rooted, in science and mathematics. It's based on the view that whatever exist can be verified through experiments, observation, and mathematical logical proof. Every thing else is none existent. In addition, Positivism usually believe that scientific progress will eradicate or at least sharply reduce, the problems facing mankind.

**Positivism / Positivists** are almost always strong realists. That is they believe that what we experience as reality is really out there in the world - In other words they believe in objective truth - They also trend to deny the influence of things like theoretical and cultural biases that get in the way of science.

### Comte's Positivism and its Characteristics

As a philosophical ideology and movement Positivism first assumed its distinctive features in the work of the French philosopher Auguste Comte, who named the systematized science of sociology. It

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Then developed through several stages known by various names, such as Empiricism - Logical Positivism and Logical Empiricism and finally in the mid 20th century flowed into the movement known as Analytic and Linguistic Philosophy. In its basic ideological posture, Positivism is worldly, secular, anti-theological and anti meta-physical. Comte's Positivism was posited on the assertion of a so called Law of three stages of intellectual development. There is a parallel, as Comte saw it, between the evolution of thought patterns in the entire history of man; on the one hand and in the history of individual's development from infancy to adulthood on the other.

### Science as Underlying Ground for Positivism.

Positivism of then involves the use of existing theory to develop hypothesis to be tested during the research process-



Positivism relies on Different/following aspects of the Science.

### 1 Science is deterministic.

Scientific approach is based on assumption that  $x$  and  $y$  under certain circumstances. The role of researcher when following the scientific approach is to discover specific nature of cause and effect relationships.

### 2 Science is mechanistic.

Mechanical nature of scientific approach can be explained in a way that researchers develop hypothesis to be proved or disproved via application of specific research method.

### 3 Science Use Method.

Chosen Method are applied mechanically in order to operationalize theory or hypothesis. Application of methodology involve selection of sample, measurements, analysis and reaching conclusions about hypothesis.

② Detailed notes on Interpretivism-

### Interpretivism:

Interpretivism, also known as interpretivist involves Researchers to interpret elements of the study thus interpretivism integrates human interest into a study. Accordingly interpretive researchers assume that access to reality (given or socially constructed) is on through social constructions such as language consciousness, shared meanings and instruments. Interpretivism is associated with the philosophical positivism of idealism, and is used to group together diverse approaches, including social constructivism, phenomenology and hermeneutics, approaches that reject the objectivist view that meaning resides within the world independently of consciousness. According to interpretivist approach, it is important for the researcher as social actor to appreciate difference between people. Moreover interpretivism studies usually focus on meaning and may employ multiple methods.



## Important Aspects of Interpretivism-

Interpretivism approach is based on naturalistic approach of data collection such as interviews and observations. Secondary data research is also popular with interpretivism philosophy. In this types of studies, meanings emerge usually towards the end of research process. The most noteworthy variations of interpretivism include the following.

- Hermeneutics :- It refers to the philosophy of interpretation and understanding. Hermeneutics mainly focuses on biblical texts and wisdom literature and as such has a little relevance to business studies.
- Phenomenology :-

It is the philosophical tradition that seeks to understand the world through directly experiencing the phenomena.

In general interpretivist approach is based on the following beliefs-

## Assignment

## 1. Relativist ontology:-

This approach perceives reality as intersubjectively that is based on meanings and understandings on social and experiential levels-

## 2) Transactional or Subjectivist epistemology

According to this approach, people cannot be separated from their knowledge. therefore there is a clear link between the researcher and research subject-



## Discuss Research ONION in Detail?

### Research ONION

The Research ONION is used in explaining the research methodology for the study with the research ONION framework adopted from Saunders & Lewis (2012). This is presented in figure 3.1. The approach taken in using the research ONION framework is to go from the outer layer to the inner layer of the research ONION.

Figure :-



Source: Saunders & Lewis (2012)



### Research Philosophy:-

The Outermost Layer is the Research philosophy and the philosophy taken for this Research is a Pragmatist research philosophy. The decision to adopt the pragmatist Research philosophy was based on the rationale that CSR cannot be seen as a fact but socially constructed views on corporate Social Responsibility with insights from the result of the views. In addition pragmatist research philosophy could yield better research results with the opportunity to use a mix of different methods in the research.

### Research Approach:-

The Next Layer in the research Onion is the research approach and a deductive approach is taken as this fits with the pragmatist research philosophy. The deductive research approach provides a comprehension of different understanding of corporate Social responsibility actions by means of empirical data. For this Research approach will provide the observations that are needed in forming the views for the outcomes to the address the

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Research Objectives. This is through the execution of primary research with the use of a structured questionnaire in order to build the understanding of the observations in addressing the research issues.

Research Strategy-

The Research strategy for the research is the case study approach with the use of a survey questionnaire. In this research strategy the research is geared towards a single contextual setting. The company case study research strategy supports an enriched understanding of the case

organization-

Research Choice :-

The next layer of research onion is the research choices. A mixed method is utilised with the use of a qualitative approach and a quantitative approach taken as the research methods applied in the study is consistent with the pragmatist research philosophy. The quantitative research is consistent with the deductive research approach. This was achieved through the use of primary research with structured questionnaire forming the basis for the interaction with primary research respondents.



### Time Horizon

For the next research on Layer, the time horizon, a cross-sectional timing was utilised with the research conducted over a period of ten weeks. A cross-sectional approach for the time horizon means that the focus of the research is on the current situation whereas the alternative, a longitudinal approach, requires the use of repeated studies over a period of time to identify correlation between observations and changes among the results over different time periods.

### Data Sources:

The main data sources result from the secondary research and the primary research. The secondary research provides the Chevron data and specifics on actions taken in Niger Delta Region. These are augmented by the theoretical arguments and the industry data from different published sources. The primary research provides the results of the structured questionnaire with the results used for the deductive approach.