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**Sample Preview  
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# QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

## SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

M.S.W.-6

Time: 3 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks: 100

Note : (i) Answer all five questions. (ii) All questions carry equal marks.

**Q. 1. Prepare a research proposal on any topic of your choice.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-4, Page No. 29, 'Preparing Research Proposal'.

*Or*

**What do you understand by experimental research design? Discuss the various types of experimental research design.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 41, 'Experimental Research Designs'.

**Q. 2. Write a note about the importance of 'questionnaire' in research.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-10, Page No. 89, 'Characteristics of a Good Questionnaire' and 'Uses of Questionnaire'.

*Or*

**Define 'Measures of Dispersion'. Write a note about it.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-14, Page No. 121, 'Measures of Dispersion'.

**Q. 3. Answer any two of the following:**

**(a) Briefly mention the significant changes in the trends of social work research after the 90's at the national level.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-2, Page No. 15, Q. No. 3.

**(b) Define qualitative research. Write the steps in qualitative research.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-8, Page No. 68, 'Qualitative Research' and Page No. 69, 'Qualitative Research: Main Steps'.

**(c) What do you mean by 'tests' in research? Examine different uses of these tests.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-10, Page No. 91-92, 'Tests' and Page No. 92, 'Use of Tests'.

**(d) Discuss the process of examining the effects of third variables on the bivariate relationship.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-13, Page No. 114, 'Bivariate Analysis' and Page No. 115, Q. No. 3.

**Q. 4. Answer any four of the following questions:**

**(a) What do you understand by the term 'Time Estimate'?**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-4, Page No. 33, 'Time Estimate'.

**(b) Discuss correlational studies in research.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-6, Page No. 47, 'Correlational Studies'.

**(c) Define documentation. Explain its relevance in social work research.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-11, Page No. 100, 'Documents', 'Types of Documents' and 'uses of Expressive Documents'.

**(d) Why is hypothesis needed in a research? List out the steps involved in testing of hypothesis.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-4, Page No. 34, Q. No. 2 and Chapter-3, Page No. 21, 'Testing of Hypothesis (Step 1 to Step 7)'.

**(e) Explain snowball sampling with specific examples.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-9, Page No. 82, 'Snowball Sampling'.

**(f) Why and how a research report is written?**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-16, Page No. 137, 'Why and How to Write a Research Report?'.

**Q. 5. Write short notes on any five of the following:**

**(a) Process of research.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-3, Page No. 17, 'The Research Process'.

**(b) Types of single-subject designs with graphical example.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 38-39, 'Types of Single Subject Design'.

**(c) Quantitative data.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-12, Page No. 105, 'Quantitative Data'.

**(d) Briefly discuss reporting of research.**

**Ans.** The conclusion of a research activity is presented in the form of results and discussions. The aim or the objective or the purpose with which the research activity was undertaken is reported in the written form. The research might have been done at personal level or as an institutional project for an outside agency. There are certain norms and patterns and styles and formats which are used in the process of reporting the research study. This is done in a way that it is easy for others to grasp the concept who is concerned with that study.

**(e) Verifiability.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-1, Page No. 3, 'Verifiability'.

**(f) Characteristics of 'case study' method.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-8, Page No. 71, 'Characteristics of Case Study Method'.

**(g) Limitations of interview in research.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-11, Page No. 99, 'Limitations of the Interview'.

**(h) Electronic spreadsheet.**

**Ans.** An electronic spreadsheet can be used to automatically perform numerical calculations. Spreadsheet programs are usually set up in the form of a table with rows and columns. Each row and column intersects to form a cell in which data may be stored. These data may be a text label, a number, or a formula that combines data from other cells.

In security management spreadsheets are of immense value in preparing and tracking budgets, calculating expenses, estimating job costs, and conducting other numerical analyses. Data entries can be easily changed to analyze their effect. Another useful feature of most spreadsheet programs is the ability to graphically display results. Different types of graphs and charts can be used to visually display fluctuations and trends in the relationships between different variables within a spreadsheet. Spreadsheets are also a useful tool to keep track of expense and income. ■■

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# Sample Preview of The Chapter

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# SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

## Basics of Research in Social Work



## Introduction to Social Work Research

### INTRODUCTION

The process of research helps in acquiring authentic and reliable information about a phenomenon. It is used to establish or confirm facts, re-affirm the results of previous work, solve new or existing problems, support theorems, or develop new theories. It can be defined as a systematic inquiry towards understanding a social phenomenon. It can also be defined as the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.

In this chapter, we will understand the meaning of the terms research and scientific research and then examine the scientific method and its application in social work. Also the chapter focuses on the helping the social work professionals to solve the problems that are faced by them while practicing the social work. We will also study about the extent to which the research is used in scientific approach in studying the problems of the society. The focus is also on acquiring the reliable knowledge about the various aspects of human experience.

### CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

#### MEANING OF RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

##### Research

Research comprises “Creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of humans, culture and society and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.” In the process of observation, we attribute our observations entirely to the objects or phenomenon being observed and irrespective of our

biases. This process leads to arriving at the right decisions on the basis of wrong reasons and *vice-versa*. There are certain limitations with every process of knowledge. The process includes observations and some other methods which is called as research which takes into account the biases, the errors and the limitations. Thus, we can say that research can be defined as systematic and critical investigation of phenomena towards increasing the stream of knowledge.

##### Scientific Research

The aim of science is to describe, explain and understand the various objects or phenomenon in nature. The scientific method is a body of techniques for investigating phenomena, acquiring new knowledge or correcting and integrating previous knowledge. To be termed scientific, a method of inquiry is commonly based on empirical or measurable evidence subject to specific principles of reasoning. On the other hand, research is a special endeavour which involves systematic and critical investigation towards increasing the stream of knowledge. Thus scientific research can be defined as a systematic and critical investigation about the natural phenomena to describe, explain and understand the relationship between them.

##### Conceptual Foundations of Scientific Research

The two conceptual foundations on which the scientific research is based are facts and theory. A fact is something that has really occurred or is actually the case. The usual test for a statement of fact is verifiability—that is, whether it can be demonstrated to correspond to experience. Standard reference works are often used to check facts. Scientific facts are verified by repeatable careful observation or measurement. The scientific research aim at systematic description of the observed



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facts and their mutual relations and understanding their nature and interpret the observed facts and relations. This then involve the reduction of the observed facts and their relations into limited number of the general statements that account for the observed facts and their relations.

According to Goode and Hatt (1952): A theory refers to the relationship between facts or the ordering is a set of interrelated constructs or concepts, definitions and propositions that present a systematic view of phenomena by specifying the relations among variables, with the purpose of explaining and predicting the phenomena. With any views on what a theory is and the related explanations, we can understand that a theory is a systematic explanations for the observed facts and their interrelations.

**Facts and Theory**

Facts are the first step towards scientific research and then come theorizing the facts. Then it is essential to organize those facts and develop a mechanism of organizing those facts as they accumulate and to make them meaningful. The scientists gather many facts through investigations and then integrate, organize and classify them to make them meaningful. In science, facts are observations that have been repeatedly confirmed and for all practical purposes are accepted as “true.”

After the integration of the facts into conceptual scheme, significant relationship in the data is identified and explained and then the theories are formulated. In science, theory can be defined as a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world that can incorporate facts, laws, inferences and tested hypotheses. The facts underlies the theory and the theories underlies the facts with each raising the other like a spiral to an increasingly precise scientific formulation. The significance of the facts are derived from theoretical framework into which they bring facts into focus.

The word fact can be used several ways, but in general in science, “facts” refer to the observations. They are best when they are repeatable observations under controlled conditions, such as “It is a fact that the speed of light is constant in a vacuum.” This is the part of science which will be the same a century from now, unless more precise measurements show otherwise. The theories are the explanations proposed in step two of the scientific method. Usually the word “theory” is reserved for more than a first attempt, which might be

called a “hypothesis.” A theory usually has already survived several calrification attempts and is pretty well accepted. However, We will use the word theory to mean any explanation of observations.

**Purpose of Theory**

In the development of science, theory serves a number of purposes. Let us look at three main purposes of the theory.

- **Firstly:** It helps in summarizing and putting in order the existing knowledge thereby permitting the deeper understanding of data and translating the empirical findings into an easier form.
- **Secondly:** It helps in explanation of the observed events and relationships. It helps in identifying the related variables and their relationship.
- **Thirdly:** It helps in permitting the prediction of the occurrence of the phenomena and enable the investigator to postulate and discover the unknown phenomena. It also helps in stimulating the development of new knowledge by providing the lead for further inquiry.

**Developing a Theory**

The development of theory needs collection of facts and is not merely born out of imagination. After that the searches make guesses, adds the missing links and then put forward a hypothesis and deduces the consequences of the hypothesis and then look for more facts and then build a generalized concept on the collected facts and then outlines a theory. Theories are based on evidences and are practical tools which enable us to advance our knowledge still further. In this way the conceptual framework is prepared inside which our evidence can be tested.

There are many terms involved in theory that refer to the matters that cannot be directly observed. The terms of the theory and the theoretical statements are sometimes referred to as constructs. The terms at many times refer to the construction of the imagination of the scientists.

**SCIENTIFIC METHOD**

The methods used in scientific research are referred to as scientific methods. It can be defined as the body of techniques for investigating phenomena, acquiring new knowledge or correcting and integrating previous knowledge. According to George Lundberg (1946), there are three basic steps of scientific methods:

Systematic observation, classification and interpretation of data. These steps not only bring about the verifiability of the facts but also lay the confidence in the validity of the conclusions.

The scientific method is an ongoing process, which usually begins with observations about the natural world. Human beings are naturally inquisitive, so they often come up with questions about things they see or hear and often develop ideas (hypotheses) about why things are the way they are. The best hypotheses lead to predictions that can be tested in various ways, including making further observations about nature. In general, the strongest tests of hypotheses come from carefully controlled and replicated experiments that gather empirical data. Depending on how well the tests match the predictions, the original hypothesis may require refinement, alteration, expansion or even rejection. If a particular hypothesis becomes very well supported a general theory may be developed.

The major characteristics of the scientific method are:

- Objectivity
- Verifiability
- Replication and
- Prediction
- **Objectivity:** Objectivity in science is a value that informs how science is practiced and how scientific truths are discovered. It is the idea that scientists, in attempting to uncover truths about the natural world, must aspire to eliminate personal biases, a priori commitments, emotional involvement, etc. Objectivity is often attributed to the property of scientific measurement, as the accuracy of a measurement can be tested independent from the individual scientist who first reports it. The focus is on testing and not on personal judgement. The data and logic is used to make a sound conclusion. Objectivity is achieved through standardization of the research instruments and the analytical tools.
- **Verifiability:** Verifiability is another characteristics of scientific research in which research findings presented for other researchers must be verifiable. The findings are open to scrutiny and hence verifiability is related to the criteria of objectivity or a study which is based on objective facts that can be

verified. There are two different approaches to verifiability: One is the analysis of the same data on the same sample through alternative analytical tools and second is the replication of the study on the different sample.

- **Replication:** Replication is that characteristics of scientific method through which the conclusions and the results of the research study can be confirmed. With the help of the scientific method, it is possible to replicate the study and verify the results.
- **Prediction:** By using the statistical methods and techniques, it is possible to achieve the prediction. The hypothesis is your general statement of how you think the scientific phenomenon in question works. Your prediction lets you get specific -- how will you demonstrate that your hypothesis is true? The experiment that you will design is done to test the prediction.

An important thing to remember during this stage of the scientific method is that once you develop a hypothesis and a prediction, you shouldn't change it, even if the results of your experiment show that you were wrong.

#### Use of Scientific Methods in Social Science

We all know that the human behaviour is complex and dynamic in nature and social science deal with the human behaviour. It is therefore impossible to investigate the human behaviour. In that case the researchers face a number of problems of subjectivity and individualistic generalizations, etc.

But even then the scientific methods are acceptable within their own limitations for the study of the social phenomena as it helps in arriving at valid generalizations.

#### Possibilities and Limitations of Use of Scientific Method in Social Sciences

In case of social sciences, the scientific research poses much greater complexity than that in natural sciences. But then it is not impossible to make the research in the field. The first and the foremost requirement is the observation. Along with subjective and qualitative judgement, it is important to make quantitative measurements which are slightly difficult in case of human beings.

Social science has not been able to realize the

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objective of science as completely as natural science and also not been able to predict the events or behaviour accurately. There are several limitations involved in the process of social science research and in the application of the scientific method in social sciences.

**MEANING OF SOCIAL RESEARCH AND SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH**

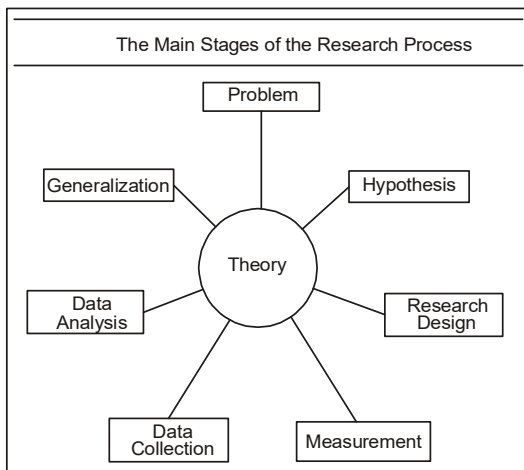
**Social Research**

Social research is research conducted by social scientists following a systematic plan. It aims at discovering the casual relationships in human behaviour. Social research seeks to establish, measure, analyse these associations in all their variety and intensity. In social research the objects are conscious and active human beings. The social research is thus, a difficult job in which the researcher and the objects are similar but the scope of the objective approach in social research is limited.

The social interaction is a result of many factors and the complex nature of the social data reduces the power of exact prediction in social research. The social research is more of qualitative in nature than quantitative.

**Social Research Process**

The scientific researcher engage themselves to produce knowledge in the social research process. Each research project involves some common activities which are interdependent on each other. The research process is a system of these interrelated activities. The diagram below shows the activities that are engaged in the social research process.



**Social Work Research**

The process of social work research involves the production of knowledge that social workers need to solve problems that they confront in the practice of social work. The information helps the social workers take it into consideration and then make the decisions that will affect the client, programme and the agencies to modify the programme accordingly.

Social work is, quite simply, the act of investigating a certain factor or problem that clients are facing. It could involve the societal causes of homelessness or the root problems behind substance or alcohol abuse. Social work is a diverse and complex field and research not only allows social work professionals to expand their personal knowledge within a practice area, but it can also benefit their clients and even society from a policy or legislative level. Social work helps in dealing with the issues and methods which are useful in evaluating social work programmes and practices. Also it helps in evaluating the methodology of social research and illustrate its applications in social work settings.

**Goal of Social Work Research**

The main objective of the social work research is to search for the answers to the questions raised regarding the interventions and the treatment effectiveness in the social work practice. It aims at providing the knowledge about the interventions and the treatments really help or hinder the attainment of social work goals. The main aim of the social work research is to search the answers to the problems or the difficulties faced by the practitioners of the social work. To sum up we can say that social work research aims at building the knowledge or the base for social work theory and practice.

**Social Work Research Process**

The social work research process includes the following steps:

- Identifying the problems and setting up of goals
- Assessment process of the clients problems
- Setting up the goals to be achieved
- Pre-intervention measurement
- Introducing the intervention
- Assessing the effects of the intervention by making comparison between the two measurements.