

Daily Experience

Life is dynamic. We learn new things and undergo new experiences every day. If we are all inquisitive and sensitive to like situation we may hit upon questions worth of investigation. The story about Newton testifies to this. Apples have fallen on the heads of people before Newton. But it was sensitive Newton alone raised the question regarding fall of apple which led to the discovery of Law of gravitation.

Consultation

Discussion with experts, researchers etc. will help to identify meaningful problems of research.

Field situation

Field visits, training and extension work provide exposure to problems which call for study.

Brain storming

Intensified discussion within a group of interested person may often be a means of identifying pertinent questions and of developing new ideas about a problem.

Intuition

Sometimes new ideas may strike to one's mind like a flash reflective mind is spring of knowledge. Eg. Sri Buddha.

Techniques of formulating Research Problem

How to define a Research Problem is undoubtedly a herculean task. However it is a task that must be talked intelligently. The usual approach is that the Researcher should himself pose a question and set techniques and procedure for throwing light on the problem.

Defining a Research Problem properly and clearly is a crucial part of Research study and must in no case should be accomplished hurriedly. However in practice this is frequently overlooked. The techniques involved in defining and formulating a Research problem are as follows.

1. Statement of the problem in a general way
 2. Understanding the nature of the problem
 3. Surveying the available literature
 4. Developing ideas through discussion
 5. Rephrasing the Research Problem.
1. Statement of the problem in a General way

First of all the problem should be stated in broad general way keeping in view either some practical concern or some scientific or intellectual interests. For the purpose the researcher must

immerse himself thoroughly in the subject matter concerning which he wishes to pose a problem. In Research, some preliminary survey or Pilot Survey is desirable. Then he can himself states the problem or he can seek the help of a guide. Often the guide puts forth the problem in general terms, and then it is up to the Researcher to narrow it down and phrase the problem in operational term. The stated problem may have various ambiguities that must be resolved by cool thinking and thinking at the same time the feasibility of particular solutions has to be considered and the same should be kept in view while stating the problem.

2. Understanding the nature of the problem.

The next step in defining the problem is to understand its origin and nature clearly. The best way of understanding the problem is to discuss it with those who first raised it in order to find out how the problem originally came out and with what objectives in view. If the researcher has stated the problem himself, he should consider once again all those points that induced him to make a general statement concerning the problem. For a better understanding of the nature of the problem involved, he can enter into discussion with those who have a good knowledge of the problem concerned or similar other problems. The researcher should also keep you the environment within which the problem is to be studied or understood.

3. Surveying the available literature

All the available literature concerning the problem at hand must necessarily be surveyed and examined before a definition of research problem is given. He must be conversant with relevant theories in the field, reports and the records as also of all other relevant literature. He must devote sufficient time in reviewing of research already undertaken on related problems. This is done to find out what data and other materials, if any, are available for operational purposes. This would also help the researcher to know if there are certain gaps in the theories or whether the existing theory applicable to the problem study are inconsistent with each other, or whether the findings of different studies do not follow a pattern consistent with the theoretical expectation and so on. All these enable a researcher to take new strides in the field of Furtherance of knowledge that he can move to starting from the existing premise studies on related problems are useful for indicating the type of difficulties that may be encountered in the present study as also the possible analytical shortcomings. At times such studies also suggest useful and even new lines of approach to the present problem.

Developing ideas through discussion

Discussion concerning a problem often produces useful information. Various new ideas can be developed through such an exercise, hence, a researcher must discuss his problems with his colleagues and others who have enough of experience in the same area or in working on similar problems. This is known as experience survey. People with rich experience are in a position to enlighten the researcher.

Rephrasing the Research Problem

Finally the researcher must patiently sit to rephrase the research problem into a working proposition- Once the nature of the problem has been clearly understood, the environment (within which the problem has to be studied) has been defined, discussion over the problem has taken