

Categories of Concept

Concepts are divided into two categories i.e. Concepts by postulation and concept by intuition. The concepts following in the first category have meaning except from the specific theory; When these concepts are used in two different theories these communicate two different meanings, sometimes even different and opposite from each other on the other hand concept by intuition devotes something which is immediately apprehended. The meaning of these concepts is constant whoever use it. Both the categories of concepts have equal importance and significance in social science research.

Features of Good Concept

- a) The concepts should be clear, definite and precise.
- b) The concept should be comprehensive and clear in formation and understanding.
- c) The concept should avoid multiple meaning and as far as possible should convey exactly what was intended when the concept was coined.

Types of Concepts

- a) Concrete concepts:- Symbolize material objects which can be seen, touched and eg. book , table
- b) Abstract concepts refer to properties or characteristics of objects. eg. weight, height

Characteristics of concepts

- 1. Concepts are symbols which we attach to the bundle of meanings we hold.
- 2. Concepts represent only one part of reality.
- 3. Different people hold different concepts of the same thing.
- 4. Concepts also represent various degree of abstraction.

(A concept is thus an abstract symbol representing an object, a property of object, or a certain phenomena.)

Variable

The concrete observable events which represent the abstract concepts or constructs are called variables.

MODULE II

TYPES OF RESEARCH

Research is classified into different forms on the basis of intent & methods.

The following are the different types of research.

1. Descriptive Vs Analytical

Descriptive research includes Surveys or fact-finding enquiries of different kinds. The major purpose of descriptive research description of the state of affairs as it exist at present. The main characteristics of this method is that the researcher has no control over the variables; He can only report what has happened or what is happening.

In Analytical research, on the other hand the researcher has to use facts or information already available & analyse this to make a critical evaluation, of the material.

2. Applied Vs Fundamental

Research can either be applied (or action) research fundamental (or pure) research Applied Research aims at finding a solution for an immediate problem facing a society or an organisation whereas Fundamental Research is mainly concerned with Generalisation and with the formulation of a theory. 'Gathering knowledge for knowledge' is termed pure research. Research studies concerning natural phenomenon, human behaviour etc are examples of Fundamental Research. But Research aims at certain conclusion facing a concrete social problems is an example of applied Research.

3. Qualitative Vs Quantitative

Quantitative Research is based on the measurement of quantity or amount. It is applicable to a phenomenon that is phenomenon relating to or involving quality or kind. Qualitative Research is specially important in the behavioural sciences where the aim is to discover the underlying motives

Conceptual Research is that related to some abstract ideas for theory. It is generally used by philosophers and thinkers to develop the new concepts or to interpret existing ones.

On the other hand Empirical Researches rely on experiments or observation alone, often without due regard for system of theory. It is data based research coming up with conclusions which are capable of being variable of observation and experiment.

5. One Time Research or Longitudinal Research

In the former case the research is confined to a single time period, whereas the latter case the research is carried on over several time periods.

6. Laboratory Research and Field setting Research

This classification is based on the environment in which research is carried out.