

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY : AN ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Research is a systematic and critical investigation. It aims at the discovery of new facts and their correct information. It is also the revision of accepted laws or theories in the light of the discovery of new facts. It can be the practical application of new or revised conclusions, theories or laws. The word systematic mean that the entire procedure of the investigation is done under certain principles. The word critical means that the researcher takes care of both kinds of facts, one that favours his hypothesis and the other that goes counter to his assumptions. It follows then, that the researcher must not be prejudiced or subjective in his observation, experiment, analysis or interpretation nor should he be erratic in the arrangement of facts nor ignore the facts that shatter his hypothesis. Research is a collective responsibility shared by all researchers. Research is a creation of a genuine and intelligent interest in literature.

Key Words – Research, methods, observation, experiment, interpretation.

Introduction -

Research is a studious inquiry or examination, especially critical and exhaustive investigation or experimentation having for its aim the discovery of new facts and their correct information, the revision of accepted conclusions, theories, or laws in the light of newly discovered facts, or the practical applications of such new or revised conclusions, theories or laws. Research in more than study. Research means, to examine or inspect closely. It means a systematic investigation in a field of knowledge to discover or establish facts or principles. It also means a fresh approach to a subject or interpretation of facts. “Research is a systematic investigation for the purpose of gaining new knowledge. Research is any study that leads to new knowledge for the person doing research”.

Research is a “search or investigation directed to the discovery of some new fact by careful consideration or study of a subject, a course of critical or scientific enquiry”. Research is a” a studious enquiry or examination, especially critical and exhaustive investigation or experimentation having for its aim the discovery of new facts and their correct information, the revision of accepted conclusions, theories, or laws in the light of newly discovered facts, or the practical applications of such new or revised conclusions, theories or laws”.

Research is a systematic and critical investigation means the entire procedure of the investigation is done under certain principles. The word critical means that the research takes care of both kinds of facts, one that favours his hypothesis and the other that goes counter to his assumptions. The researcher must not be prejudiced or subjective in his observation, experiment, analysis or interpretation nor should he be erratic in the arrangement of facts nor ignore the facts that shatter his postulates or hypothesis. Research should be a genuine contribution to knowledge. This is possible only when we discover a new fact or interpret a known fact in a new way. Research is also that kind of investigation which examines an accepted theory to revise or modify or sometimes reject it. Research can be of applied kind. The investigator applies the abstract principles of a theory for practical purposes.

Types of Research -

We have discussed research in general. But the nature of research differs from subject to subject. This is because materials and tools of each subject are largely different.

Literary Research -

When its material the object of study is creative, it applies the tools of social sciences and when the object of study is the text, it applies the tools which are specific to it. But it will be rash to separate these two aspects of Literary research. While studying the text we cannot ignore its creator nor can we study an author isolating him from his works. The methods of analysis and evaluation of a literary text have become autonomous. They have their own theories and principles which are being constantly modified and revised. In natural and social sciences have two kinds of research, Basic and applied. Literary research because of the duality of its object of study, is of four kinds – (a) Bibliography and textual criticism (b) Biographical (c) Theoretical (d) Interpretative

Textual Research and Bibliography -

Textual research is concerned with the establishment of an authoritative text, correction of past editions, chronology, authenticity and attribution. An author be read as he had written and his works be presented in chronological order.

Biographical -

This kind of research neglected in India, is of first importance in the understanding of an author's mind and art. The task of the biographer is really very difficult. A biographer has to collect material from different sources, study the author's published works and unpublished writings as well interview him frequently if he is alive, meet and collect information from the people close to him, distinguish fact from fiction and after that present the life story, laying more emphasis on the literary side by correlating the important events of his life and time and his works, systematically, chronologically and interestingly.

Theoretical -

This kind of research can be compared to the basic research in natural and social sciences. Its aim is to propound a theory of literature or modify and improve an already existing one.

Interpretative -

This kind of research can be compared to the applied research in sciences. It analyses, interprets and evaluates a literary text of an author by applying the principles of a particular theory. It may be a study of an authors, style, use of imagery or symbolism, exploration of myth, perception of social reality, expression of the inner soul development of thought or the structure of his texts. This type of research is the systematicity in the use of the principles and use of both inductive and deductive methods. The researcher has to modify his methods and techniques occasionally and sometimes to revise the theory he has adopted.

Aims of research -

The education system has three main functions –

- (a) Teaching (b) Research (c) Extension

The first function is handling down the torch of knowledge to the next generation. Teaching is the most important function because without it the younger generation will never have access to the treasure of knowledge, its forefathers have collected. Research adds something new to the treasure of knowledge and without it teaching will lose its utility gradually. If teaching went on repeating what is already known and ignoring the new knowledge acquired by research, civilization would not progress. A conscientious teacher always learn something new, makes it a part of the storage of his knowledge, modifies his views in the light of new facts, reorder his methods and goes to the classroom to acquaint the learners with the new knowledge he has gained. If he is engaged in research. He is never satisfied with the knowledge that he possesses, his thirst to know more is never quenched and he will never limit himself to repeating the old things in the classroom every year.

Objectives of Research -

Literary research has four main objectives –

- (a) Advancement of knowledge
(b) Broadening the mind and sharpening the critical insight of the researcher.
(c) Creation of a genuine and intelligent interest in literature.
(d) Inculcation of the sense that the researcher is a member of a collaborative community.

Advancement of Knowledge -

There are two aspects of it. The first is the assimilation of the intellectual achievements of the predecessors. Research means going from the known to the unknown. It is necessary that the researcher should have a thorough knowledge of what has been done in the past and what the present status of knowledge in the field of his investigation is.

The second aspect is the discovery of new facts and a fresh interpretation of the known facts.

Broadening the mind and sharpening the critical insight of the researcher -

The researcher is made of a different stuff. An average reader goes through a novel, a play or a poem for two reasons - (a) Entertainment and morals. He seldom bothers about the artistic presentation of reality. He may react against the views expressed in a book or disbelieve the facts presented there. He does so, because the contents of the book go against the ideas he has held uptill now. Research warns us of such kind of reading. We can properly study a book we should not read to find in it what we already know nor to confirm our opinion already

formed but to observe the facts stated there and analyse the authors view and compare them with our own. There is the necessity of critical insight. The researcher cannot develop a critical insight unless and until he has an elementary knowledge of the natural sciences, social sciences, philosophy, history, and religion. The young researcher must be able to make distinction between a good text and a bad text.

We must develop the ability to evaluate and judge the general reliability of published research. All critics are not impartial. Their judgments are warped by their postulates, method, faulty application and personal prejudices.

Creation of a genuine and intelligent interest in literature -

People go to a man of learning for knowledge. If a scholar fails to help people gain knowledge, he will never get respect and honour. The aim of Literary research is to create in the young researcher a genuine interest in literature. Research is something more than earning a qualification or fame. It is an activity which is a reward in itself. The aim of research is to develop the powers of understanding and appreciating literature. A research has developed his powers of understanding and appreciating. He has read literature with genuine interest, developed his critical insight and analysed both the novelist systematically.

Conclusion -

Research should be able to generate in the university a centre of human consciousness, perception, knowledge, judgment and responsibility. Research has to be thought of in relation to the whole idea of university. It must aim at establishing a creative front and doing creative work on the contemporary intellectual frontier. In literature, we must be aware of the fact that there are thousands of scholars belongs to a community which is dedicated to the enrichment of culture, to better understanding of man's feelings, emotions, and problems through literature and to creation of an ideal environment in the university.

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