

# The study of factors affecting the task of defining the research problem

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## Abstract:

Social research begins with a research problem or research topic. If the researcher feels that there is some problem, then the researcher tries to solve that problem and accordingly, that problem or topic is selected for the study. The area of interest of the researcher is very important in the selection of the problem. In the initial stage, the researcher does not have a deep knowledge of the chosen study subject i.e., the problem. There are many such problems in the society in which the scholar lives. But not all subjects attract his attention or he does not see them all as a problem. He finds all those things normal but he has a curiosity about any subject or problem, and as soon as his interest is aroused, he chooses that problem to study. The general problem that the researcher chooses to study does not have an in-depth knowledge of all parts of the subject and it is his curiosity to know that motivates him to study. The topic chosen by the researcher for the study need not be new. Older topics can also be selected to get more in-depth information about a topic, theory, or hypothesis, or to review previously studied topics. In this research paper, the factors affecting the task of defining the research problem have been studied.

**Keywords:** Research Problem, Topic, Theory, Hypothesis, Researcher, Social Research

## ResearchMethodology:

The research paper has depended on secondary data.

## Objective of Research:

- 1) To study the factors affecting the task of defining the research problem.
- 2) To study the concepts of research problem

## Introduction:

Problem formulation in social research is the first step in the study. Every researcher has to define a topic for his study. But the selection of the study subject is not the formulation of the problem, but after selecting the problem or topic for research, the researcher has to determine the objectives of his research and it is necessary to prepare that objective in the form of statements. The purpose of the study is to present the problem in the form of a statement. Scientific research begins when a topic or some aspect of the topic appears to be a problem. So that curiosity attracts the attention of the researcher. Scientific studies can also be done on that component of a subject that has been studied to some extent. Even after the researcher has selected the problem, the researcher must decide beforehand what to research, what to find out, what information to get, and from whom to get the information. This gives a definite direction to the research.

In short, it can be said that by converting a general subject area of research into a specific research problem, its formulation is problem formulation. The problem presented to be solved is the research problem. A problem is an interrogative statement. No investigation or research begins until a practical or theoretical problem arises. The problem may be a guide to understanding the system of relations between the facts on which the problem is to be based. In short, it can be said that the problem chosen by the researcher for an in-depth study of the subject is a problem formulation for the research.

According to McGuigan, if a question cannot be answered then it is not a question. In science, investigations are done only on solvable problems. In the form of a solvable problem,

investigations are done on the problems themselves. Regarding the nature of a solvable problem, McGuigan wrote: A solvable problem is a question that can be answered based on a person's general abilities. According to McGuigan, a problem is often expressed in the following three situations.

### **Obstacles in Knowledge-**

This situation often occurs when our knowledge base related to an event is not sufficient, if there is a lack of information related to a subject, then a problem arises, at that time we feel that we know so much about this subject. That and something else that we do not know, the lack of knowledge of that subject is accepted as a research question. Example- If a group wants to make the facility of naturopathy available in its area, then the question arises as to what type of therapy should be considered, which of the many methods of naturopathy will be effective in this regard, any alternative no study could give a suitable answer to it, that is, it explains the incompleteness in knowledge.

### **Opposing Results-**

This situation arises when two different types of research done earlier about a fact come to see two different opposite results. On studying many research subjects, it is known that the same question has been studied by different researchers. When conflicting conclusions are given, a curiosity arises in their mind as to which conclusion is correct. Example- When a person learns an activity, it is more beneficial to give rest in the initial attempts of learning or the later attempts, if 20 attempts are to be given in learning a particular material, then it will be beneficial to give rest after the first 10 attempts or in the subsequent attempts. After 10 attempts, three experiments were done on this problem, in which conflicting results were obtained. The first experiment showed that giving rest gradually is more beneficial, the second experiment showed that it takes good learning to reduce the rest time and the third experiment showed that increasing or decreasing the rest time from the third order of magnitude has almost the same effect on learning, thus in studies with conflicting results, the researcher investigates to find out these conflicting factors.

### **Explanation of a Fact-**

When we are faced with such facts which cannot be explained based on present knowledge, then this situation creates problems in search of an explanation. The goal of science is to formulate a theory. When such facts are obtained from experience that can be explained by theories related to that field, then that situation gives rise to new studies.

Research work begins with problem formulation. For that, if the problem is formulated properly in the research work, then there is no possibility of any kind of difficulty in the research work. In research work, the task of selecting the research problem appears to be simple, but in practice, this task is very difficult. According to Darwin and Merton, the problem formulation is a very difficult subject. When the researcher must have a wide knowledge of the existing knowledge related to his/her study topic, it becomes easy to convert the research topic into a problem statement. Therefore it is very important to formulate the problem properly. However, if the formulation of the problem is wrong, it will certainly affect the research work.

### **Factors Affecting the task of Defining the Research Problem:**

For proper and meaningful research work, it is essential for the researcher to first decide the area in which to research. That is why the choice of subject is important. Also, the choice of research area depends on the interest, curiosity, and study of the researcher. The laboratory of the social researcher for research is society. And so, he has to collect experiences about his subject from real society. For this, the researcher needs to observe deeply and carefully and this is essential in this work. If the researcher is curious about his work, passionate about his work, and

his research approach is scientific, it is easy to formulate or create a theory about the problem based on the information gathered through observation.

Problems in the social sector are of various kinds and types. For that, according to the nature of the subject and problem, the researcher needs to select a suitable research method. After analyzing, observing, and studying the prevalent methods, it is necessary to choose the appropriate scientific method for the research topic. The researcher must make a thorough and critical study of all the literature related to his/her preferred topic of research. Along with the study of literature, the researcher should also be aware of the sporadic writings related to that subject area. Therefore, the method of designing a research study becomes convenient. From the same, a complete idea of the research work done to date on various aspects of the subject of study becomes complete. Therefore, there is no repetition of the same type of knowledge on the same subject.

The researcher needs to align himself with his research topic. It adds to their knowledge about the research topic and makes it very easy to formulate a meaningful research problem. Therefore, to formulate a meaningful research problem, the researcher must be familiar with his research topic. Social life is constantly changing. It is constantly changing and due to this the values and norms of society are also changing a lot. This is the reason why social research is getting new topics and new areas. e.g., Changes in the matrimonial field, changes in caste relations, effects of globalization on social life, problems arising out of those effects, suicides of farmers, and unrequited and immature love are the burning social problems of today. Large-scale changes are taking place in human society due to the impact of modernization, culturalization, westernization, industrialization, urbanization, globalization, humanization, secularism, etc. When different groups of people from different cultures come together, there is always some kind of interaction between them. That is, culture is indirectly exchanged. This leads to acceptance of what looks good and results in a cultural change in their lives. This gives rise to new questions, and new problems, and these problems can be the subject of research for sociologists.

Certain historical events in society also influence the values and beliefs of the social sciences. Some social problems arise from it and the same problems can be the subject of research. Social, political, and economic, movements have a deep impact on social life. Some social values were lost in this. So, it attracted the attention of researchers. Due to such historical events, conflicts and tensions in society increase to a great extent. Also, it affects science. eg. Terrorist activities created an atmosphere of fear in normal social life. Due to the policy of reservation in society, caste tension has arisen in society and the need for research has arisen for the scientific study of all this.

The number of formal groups in the present life is always increasing to a great extent. Therefore, the number of new groups is continuously increasing day by day. Therefore, the nature of problems is also changing with the influence of these new groups. Due to old and new conflicts in the group, new areas are also becoming available. e.g., With the emergence of new groups like women's circles, cricket clubs, professional groups, associations of elders, trade unions, hobby centers, etc. they are establishing their place in society and new areas of research have also become available to study their problems.

Doing research is sure to benefit someone or the other. Then it can be an individual or a group. That is, the conclusions or results obtained after researching the research problem can be beneficial to that person or group. That person can be anyone who approaches the scientist/researcher or a customer or even the scientist/researcher himself. A person who goes to scientist or a researcher is a person who faces a problem or is in trouble. When a factory worker approaches a social scientist with a problem or concern for guidance or discussion, he is seeking advice with a specific objective in mind. How to formulate the research problem for him is done keeping in mind what the research work is done for, that is, what the person or the client wants. That is, those who are going to benefit from the research, decide the purpose.

The consumer of the research must have at least two alternative ways of achieving a specific objective. But it should be noted that having two alternative routes does not necessarily pose a problem. This means that the route availability of those alternative means should create

doubt in the mind of the consumer about their effective performance. That is, all problems are concerned with evaluating the effective performance of alternative methods available to achieve a particular objective. Even research that emphasizes the goal of pure knowledge raises questions about the effectiveness of alternative tools. Any research problem must be related to a specific environment. i.e., a change in that position can cause this problem? or solve the problem? Does a problem only occur in that case? Or does the problem occur in a variety of situations as well? It is very important to consider this. Some problems are related to specific situations only while others are related to a wide variety of situations. So, the researcher should consider and think about it.

Various means are used to achieve the objectives of the research. Therefore, problem formulation requires tools that are not single but alternate in different ways to achieve the objectives. But since there are many such tools, the problem of choosing effective and good tools always comes before the researcher. The means of achieving goals can be material objects, ideas, and concepts. First, the researcher should note one important thing at least two tools should be available in front of the consumer who is going to use the research findings.

The personal interest of the researcher, the ability of the researcher, and the available resources affect the research topic. The researcher should have a keen interest in the problem. He must be determined to find a solution to the problem. He must have the persistence to arrive at an effective solution. In other words, there should be full devotion and dedication on the part of the researcher to carry out the research work. It is not enough for the researcher to have dedication towards the research work, there should be proper application or ability on the part of the researcher. The researcher must have the knowledge, ability, and skill to handle the research activity.

A more important internal factor affecting problem selection is the availability of resources. The researcher must have enough time and money to handle the research activity. If funds are not available with the researcher, then if possible, arrangements should be made to get funds from external sources. If sufficient funds are not available, it will not be possible to do research work effectively. The researcher should not only look at the availability of funds but also do a cost-benefit analysis for undertaking such research activities. If the cost exceeds the benefits of research, he may not go ahead with such a research problem or activity. Apart from the availability of funds, the researcher should also consider the availability of time to do the research work. The researcher should complete the research work within a reasonable period. The time required for research work depends on

Personal values play an important role in the selection of a topic for research. Social scientists with different values choose different subjects for investigation. Of course, personal values are not the only determinant in selecting a subject for investigation; Social conditions often shape investigators' choices in subtle and unavoidable ways. There are also many powerful pointers to the selection of one topic over the other. Societies differ concerning the premium they pay for work in different areas. These differences influence the choice of premiere research topics. In a given society, it may bring more prestige to research a fatal disease rather than on a child's pattern of socialization. More research funding is available for research in a particular field on less controversial topics than on controversial topics related to politics and religion. Better paying positions may be available for researchers working in some areas than others. It should be noted that the selection of a topic for research is only half a step forward. This general theme does not help the researcher to see what data are relevant to his purpose, what methods he will use to secure them, and how he will organize them. Before he can delve into these aspects he needs to formulate a specific problem.

## **Conclusion:**

Important sources of identifying research problems lie in the generalizations derived from various theories about education, psychology, sociology, etc. Technological and social changes and developments constantly give rise to new problems and issues for research. Innovations by television, programmed instruction, computers, and other hardware and software

technologies need to be carefully evaluated through the research process. The researcher aims to solve the research problem. The researcher must be inquisitive to explore possible answers to the problem the researcher seeks to answer. Formulating such possible answers or explanations in the form of a statement is to formulate a hypothesis. Brainstorming with someone experienced in the field of study is very useful for formulating the research problem in a meaningful way. Such discussions often provide a new perspective to the researcher. Keeping in mind the views of people with years of experience, there is a valuable help in research work. Many researchers are doing research work in the organization of sociological research work. From what perspective do individuals work in social research? How they relate to each other influences the choice of different problems they use in social studies.

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