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Research: Webster's New International Dictionary defined research as, 'careful or critical inquiry or examination in seeking facts or principles; diligent investigation in order to ascertain something'.

Meaning of Research Process:

Research is a Process. A process is a set of activities. That are performed to achieve a targeted outcome, which are carried out either sequentially or simultaneously.

STAGES OR STEPS IN RESEARCH PROCESS

- Formulating the Research Problem: It is said that research is an activity with a focus on something. This focus is the topi9c or the problem about which the research is conducted.
- Extensive Literature Survey: The researcher makes himself familiar with all the previous studies and their findings relevant to his field of work.
- Developing the Hypothesis: Is a statement developed on the basis of suspected or anticipated relationship among various factors studied. Working hypothesis is a provisional statement, which guides the researcher in limiting the scope of his study.

- Preparation of Research Design: A research design is a description of a conceptual structure within which the research will be conducted. Here, the researcher indicates the method of data collection, the skills at the command of the researcher, the execution plan for collection of data, the time and other resources available, the financial implications, etc.
- Determining the Sample Design: The researcher has to make a careful selection of a few elements from the population and then study them intensely and reach conclusions, which can be safely applied, to the population. Among the various methods of sampling, sampling can be broadly classified as Random and Non-Random sampling.
- **Collecting Data:** He could use both Primary as well as Secondary data.
- 1. Decide whether to use observation or Interview or Questionnaire or Schdule to collect the data.

- 2. Trained Investigators are being inducted in the field.
- 3. To apply pre-test and adopt it.
- 4. Classifying, Tabulating and Analysing the data.
- Analysis of Data: The researcher should select the tools of analyses, which are consistent with the objectives of the study. The tendency to carry out irrelevant analysis should be avoided.
- Testing Hypothesis: In the course of developing the research work, the researcher may develop hypothesis and he has to test this with the data collected. However, the researcher should know that statistical evidence is not conclusive evidence.

- Generalization and Interpretation: Selection of appropriate tools of analysis will yield useful results. Through this the researcher will be able to bring to light new relationship among variables, can emerge as a useful source of hypothesis, can become the guide posts for future research and new insight in relationship is established among variables.
- Preparation of the Report: The researcher should be familiar with the format of thesis and strictly adhere to it. It should clearly indicate the justification of the study, Period of study, sample size, sources of data, tools of analyses, bibliography, review of past studies etc.

