

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PATNA UNIVERSITY, PATNA

Research Methodology, sem-1st

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INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH

Research methodology is the specific procedure or techniques used to identify, select, process, and analyze information about a topic.

According to Kerlinger, “Scientific research is a systematic, controlled empirical and critical investigation of natural phenomena guided by theory, and hypothesis about the presumed relations among such phenomena.”

According to Best and Kahn, “Research may be defined as the systematic and objective analysis and recording of controlled observations that may lead to the development of generalizations, principles or theories resulting in prediction and possibly ultimate control of events.”

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

The main purpose of research is to inform action, to prove a theory and contributes to developing knowledge in a field or study.

Research has 2 general purposes

1. Increasing knowledge within the discipline
2. Increasing knowledge within oneself as a professional consumer of research in order to evaluate and understand new developments within the discipline, increasing knowledge within the discipline can serve several sub purposes:
 1. To create methods to assess important concepts/phenomena.
 2. To describe relevant phenomena and their relationships.
 3. To provide evidence for the efficacy of a therapeutic technique or other change.
 4. To provide support for the theoretical base of the discipline.

In addition research skills can make professionals in therapeutic sciences better providers because they know how to examine their own clients and note whether improvements has occurred.

RESEARCH DIMENSIONS

Theoretical versus applied

The goal of the research is directed toward some specific, practical use such as treatment, learning enhancement or evaluation. Some theoretical research also is performed but most of the research projects that we will examine are on the applied end of this dimension.

Laboratory versus field

A second dimension for examining research is setting. The field takes on many different meanings. Field could be a clinic, school, or home setting. Laboratory implies a

structured setting that is not where the subjects or participants usually live, work or obtain therapy.