

E-Content

Research Methodology in Economics

Semester: V

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COURSE CONTENT

Course Code : XXXXXX

Course Name: Data structures using C

Research Design

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HOW TO START WITH A RESEARCH?

- Having decided about what is to be researched, one has to decide how to go about it.
- First, decide what kind of data is required?
 - Two kinds of data:
 - PRIMARY DATA
 - SECONDARY DATA
- Having decided that we have to collect primary data, the next step is - ***HOW TO DESIGN THE RESEARCH TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY DATA?***
That is to say, decide about an appropriate research design.

A research proceeds well if we are clear about the questions we have to answer and then, properly design the study to answer them.

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Which implies that...



We should talk
about -
**Research
Design!!!**



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RESEARCH DESIGN...

- A research design is essentially a plan or strategy aimed at enabling answers to be obtained to research questions.
- ... is deciding about the ways in which the data is to be collected.
- It decides the setting in which the information is to be collected.
- ... is a MASTER PLAN to conduct an investigation.
- ... is to discipline data!!!
- ... is the blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data.

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Research design is basically ...

- **PLAN**: an outline of the research scheme and objectives.
- **STRUCTURE**: more detailed and specific outline or scheme of the research work to be done.
- **STRATEGY**: how the research work will be carried out; specifying the methods of data collection and the analysis of data.



The main characteristics of a research design may be summed up in two words...

Anticipation and Specification

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To be precise, research design is...

... a set of advance decisions that make up the master plan specifying the methods and procedures for collecting and analyzing the needed information to answer the research issues.

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Types of research design ...

Different classification of designs are suggested. Some of them are as follows:

- **QUANTITATIVE vs QUALITATIVE:** When the reality searched for is objective and quantifiable then one can use Quantitative Research otherwise one may go for Qualitative Research.
- **EXPLORATORY vs CONCLUSIVE:** Exploratory research is conducted when what is to be searched is not well defined while Conclusive Research can be undertaken in case the researcher has clear and adequate understanding about the research problem.

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Types of research design ...

(continued)

Different classification of designs are suggested. Some of them are as follows:

- **CAUSAL vs DESCRIPTIVE:** To find cause-and-effect relationships between the variables, one may use Causal Research while to answer *who, what, when, where* and *how*, one may go for Descriptive Research.
- **EXPERIMENTAL vs EX-POST FACTO:** Experimental Research is useful in cases where the effects of certain events or actions have to be observed objectively distinguishing from the effects of extraneous variables; while Ex-Post Facto Research is suitable where one has to study the impacts of those events/actions which are not controllable in the hands of the researcher.

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Types of research design ...

Different classification of designs ^(continued) are suggested. Some of them are as follows:

- **CROSS-SECTIONAL vs LONGITUDINAL**: Cross-sectional research design is used when data are to be collected for all variables of interest at a point of time while in Longitudinal research design, data are to be collected over time. If the cause has an effect with the passage of time, then longitudinal studies are more relevant.

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Types of research design ...

(continued)

Different classification of designs are suggested. Some of them are as follows:

- **LABORATORY vs FIELD EXPERIMENTS:** Laboratory Experiments are done under laboratory conditions where the researcher has more control on the independent variables. It provides more meaningful *causal* research. If an experiment is carried out in real-life settings, then it is called Field Experiment. In case of laboratory experiments, subjects are cut-off from their environment while in case of field experiments, the subjects are being studied in their real life as a consequence, laboratory experiments may not provide 'true behaviour'.

Types of research design ...

Different classification of designs ^(continued) are suggested. Some of them are as follows:

- **SIMULATION**: When it is difficult for the researcher to conduct experiments on the ACTUAL, he can go for simulation design of research.

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SOME WIDELY USED RESEARCH DESIGN...

- EXPERIMENTAL:
 - POST-TEST ONLY – ONE GROUP DESIGN & TWO OR MORE GROUP DESIGN
 - PRE-TEST and POST-TEST - ONE GROUP DESIGN & TWO OR MORE GROUP DESIGN
 - FOUR GROUP DESIGN
 - REPEATED-MEASURES DESIGNS
 - INTERRUPTED TIME-SERIES DESIGN
 - LATIN-SQUARES DESIGN
 - FACTORIAL DESIGN
- QUALITATIVE:
 - INTENSIVE INTERVIEWS
 - FOCUS GROUP
 - CASE STUDY
 - DIRECT OBSERVATION
- DESCRIPTIVE
- SIMULATION

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Do we have an IDEAL RESEARCH DESIGN?
It is not a question of IDEAL research design. A
Research Design can be a GOOD
RESEARCH DESIGN or BAD RESEARCH
DESIGN.

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