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IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

~Maanya Jain

INTRODUCTION

Every branch of knowledge has some grey area that is left untouched. This grey area is covered and searched with the help of research. Researching or simply research is a process in which a branch of knowledge is again and again searched to enhance knowledge or contribute to some new knowledge to the existing field of knowledge. The term research is made up of two words 're' and search where 're' means continuous and 'search' means finding. Thus, research is a continuous finding. Research helps any student, scholar, or academician to increase his or her in-depth knowledge about the field and enhance their understanding of the same. For instance, if research is seen from the lens of law, it is quite important because law is dynamic. It might happen that what is relevant today may not be holding the same importance tomorrow or it might require some changes or amendments. Legal research helps in the same way. The researcher dives into the branch of the subject and explores new findings and facts that may lead to a discovery in the future.

UNDERSTANDING RESEARCH- ITS CHARACTERISTICS

An individual who does research is called a researcher. He or she may belong to the category of a student, professional, academician, or scholar. The fundamental aspect of a researcher is to understand the base of the research topic and then explore a new context about the same. This implies that when research is conducted, the researcher is obliged to dive into the arena of knowledge expand his or her ambit about the topic and explore new facts. Imagine a scenario where no research is being conducted in any field, it sounds baseless because our surroundings are dynamic. What may happen today may lead to future research, thereby implying that research is dynamic, and every piece of information needs to be updated as per the changing needs of society.

Therefore, research is said to be a part of the scientific process and a part of science. To conduct successful research, one must do it systematically and scientifically, that is a proper order needs to be followed. The research should be coherent, and no unnecessary findings that do not back the research topic should not be used. Another important point that needs to be kept in mind is that one must conduct valid research. Invalid facts and findings lead to bad research that becomes baseless thereafter. Additionally, it should also be scientific and objective which implies that every research needs to be backed by facts and should hold subjectivity. For instance, if research is conducted on a particular socio-legal issue, it should not sound baseless implying that the research must be backed by scientific data and a proper analysis must be put up. Also, if certain case studies and data from reputed organizations are used in research it makes it authoritative as well as coherent and trustable.

Conducting empirical research is also an important characteristic of research. Empirical studies refer to a research methodology that uses firsthand data analysis like conduction of surveys, primary data, questionnaires, interviews, etc. Empirical research is based on data findings. Thus, to conclude research can be understood as a scientific process in which an individual dives into the knowledge, interprets the data, and provides a new set of knowledge through exploration and understanding of the same. It adds to the existing knowledge of data.

IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

After an understanding of what research is and its characteristics, we now look upon the importance of research in any field or branch of knowledge. The importance of research is mentioned below-

1. Finding of facts

Every research aims to enhance the understanding of facts and find the truth out of them. It objectifies the research as fruitful if there is a correct finding that adds up to the existing data. The research evaluates the correct findings and data from the pool of facts given.¹

2. Enhancing knowledge and facilitating learning²

¹ *What is Research- Characteristics, Importance, and Objectives*, SubjectQuery.Com (May 20, 2019), <https://www.subjectquery.com/what-is-research/>.

² *Owlcation.Com*, <https://owlcation.com/academia/Why-Research-is-Important-Within-and-Beyond-the-Academe>.

The equipment of research in our daily lives helps in understanding the changing dynamics and facilitates learning. When research is conducted, the research dives into the existing data to find the grey areas, left undiscovered. By diving deep into the field, one enhances and facilitates increasing knowledge in that particular field.

3. Answers to questions like how, when, and why³

Fundamentally, research answers to all the questions like how, why, and when of a man. This is because the researcher submits a hardcore analysis backed with facts and answers to all these questions. For instance, if a researcher conducts particular research on the evolution of marriages, and does empirical study backed with facts and data, any question regarding how marriages evolved or why there are changing notions of marriage will be answered.

4. To test the hypothesis⁴

For any research that is conducted, there consists of a hypothesis. A hypothesis is a statement that tests whether research is correct or not. A hypothesis may be proved wrong because it is a pre-determined statement from the research that will be conducted. Thus, research helps in the testing of the hypothesis statement.

5. Addition to the existing pool of knowledge

Research is always accompanied by the addition to the existing knowledge. This is because, as mentioned earlier, knowledge is enhanced as well as the unexplored areas of that branch of knowledge are found out and certain additions are made to it. As research needs to be scientific and backed by empirical data the addition to the pool of knowledge is genuine and worthy.

6. Suggestions and remedies

Whenever research is published or ideas are added, certain suggestions are welcomed. This also adds to the knowledge of the researcher and the additions are helpful for society as well.

³ Mayurakshi Basu, *Importance of Research in Education*, SSRN (2020).

⁴ *What is Research- Characteristics, Importance, and Objectives*, SubjectQuery.Com (May 20, 2019), <https://www.subjectquery.com/what-is-research/>.

Researchers can identify certain social evils and rectify them by providing certain suggestions or remedies for the same.⁵

CONCLUSION

Any branch of social sciences or academics be it the legal fraternity, sociological perspectives, or education, every field needs to be updated with the latest data and analysis of the dynamic nature of society. The nature of society to be dynamic is well known and that's why updating is required. This addition to knowledge also referred to as updating is important. It is done through the process of research. Research is a process in which the individual called a researcher conducts an empirical study of any topic and explores new areas of research. This is a part of researching where exploring new ideas is essential. Diving into the knowledge leads to innovations and suggestions. Another important aspect is that research helps in skills development such as research capabilities, knowledge of the subject as well as in-depth understanding of the field. Additionally, research helps in the contribution of suggestions and remedies by the researcher for any societal evil that exists. For instance, if a researcher is researching the topic rape, they try to suggest the lacunas and how they can be reduced or removed from society by suggesting some remedies such as patrolling done at night, availability of women helplines, empowerment of women, etc. These issues like how, when and why are also answered by the process of research. Thus, research plays an important role in the dynamics of today's world, and societal needs are also fulfilled through research which helps in addition to various fields and branches of knowledge.

⁵ Mayurakshi Basu, *Importance of Research in Education*, SSRN (2020).