

# Understanding Research: Definition, Objectives, and Types

## What is Research?

Research is a systematic process of inquiry that aims to discover new information, solve problems, or deepen our understanding of a particular subject. It involves gathering, analyzing, and interpreting data to reach conclusions or find solutions.

In simple terms, research is about finding answers to questions through a structured process. Researchers often focus on a specific topic and follow a defined set of steps to explore and understand it more clearly.

## Objectives of Research

The main objectives of research are as follows:

- 1. Exploration:**  
Research can be exploratory, aiming to investigate a new or underexplored topic. It often involves gathering information about an area where little is known.  
*Example:* Exploring a new disease or emerging technology.
- 2. Description:**  
Descriptive research provides detailed information about a phenomenon. It answers "what" questions and helps in understanding the characteristics of the subject.  
*Example:* Describing the habits and lifestyle of a specific cultural group.
- 3. Explanation:**  
Research can seek to explain relationships between variables or understand the causes of certain phenomena. It answers "why" or "how" something occurs.  
*Example:* Studying the causes of climate change.
- 4. Prediction:**  
Predictive research uses existing data to forecast future trends or behaviors. It looks at patterns and applies them to predict what may happen in the future.  
*Example:* Predicting the outcome of elections based on surveys.

## Types of Research

There are various types of research based on its objectives and methods:

- 1. Basic (Fundamental) Research:**  
This type of research aims to increase knowledge without a specific immediate application. It focuses on understanding fundamental principles or theories.  
*Example:* Research in physics to understand fundamental laws of nature.
- 2. Applied Research:**  
Applied research seeks to solve practical problems or address real-world issues. It uses knowledge to find solutions that can be implemented.  
*Example:* Research on developing vaccines to combat diseases.

**3. Qualitative Research:**

Qualitative research focuses on understanding experiences, emotions, and social phenomena through non-numerical data, such as interviews and observations. It is often used in the humanities and social sciences.

*Example:* Studying how people experience and cope with stress.

**4. Quantitative Research:**

This type of research uses numerical data to analyze patterns and relationships. It involves methods like surveys, experiments, and statistical analysis to draw conclusions.

*Example:* Conducting a survey to measure customer satisfaction with a product.

**5. Descriptive Research:**

Descriptive research focuses on providing a detailed account of a phenomenon. It doesn't explain causes or relationships but rather describes "what is."

*Example:* A report on the demographics of a city.

**6. Experimental Research:**

Experimental research involves manipulating variables to explore cause-and-effect relationships. This is commonly done through controlled experiments.

*Example:* Testing the effectiveness of a new drug in a clinical trial.

**Conclusion**

Research plays a crucial role in expanding knowledge, solving problems, and improving various aspects of life. Whether it's exploring new ideas, explaining phenomena, or predicting future trends, research helps us make informed decisions and advances our understanding of the world around us.

**References:**

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