CHAPTER # 01

<u>*INTRODUCTION*</u>

<u>**Lecture no: 07**</u>

In today's lecture we will go through the following points.

➢ **What is theory?**

➢ **Relationship between theory and research**

➢ **Difficulties in social research**

WHAT IS THEORY ?

Theory is generalized statement about a social phenomenon. It does not focus on simple description of single event but cover a number of similar events and describe the similarities between them that why any differences might occur. Theory explains social phenomena, producing supported reasons why such differences exist and why changes might be occurring. The purpose of explaining social phenomena is to be able to predict for the future, that may cause social change and affect the social world.

DEFINITIONS OF THEORY

Different definitions of theory presented by different authors are given below.

According to Lawrence Neuman

"A system of interconnected ideas that organizes knowledge about social world is known as theory".

According to professor Mushtaq

"Social theory is the result of much observation, experimentation and relationship among the facts".

Social theory is the set of facts which explains the hypotheses and establish relationship between the variables and concepts. It creates organization among the facts.

Sociological theory is the result of social research. When a research is conducted on any problem, test the variables and hypotheses. The facts come forth. Organizing these facts develop theory. Which always

➢ *Bring new knowledge and information*
➢ *Explain the social phenomena and*
➢ *Predict for the future*

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEORY AND RESEARCH

Theory and research have very close relationship with each other. Theory is the product of research, without social research no any theory can be developed, and theory paves the way for the new research through deductive reasonings. So, this is the reason when both of them are concomitant and support to each other. In the slide below we try to portray the impacts of research on theory and the impacts of theory on research so that to make their relationship clear.

THE IMPACTS OF RESEARCH ON THEORY

- ➢ *Research verifies the old theory.*
- ➢ *The research re-constructs the old theory.*
- ➢ *The research rejects the old theories.*
- ➢ *It explains the old theories which are not more clear and understandable.*
- ➢ *Research co-ordinates and re-arranges the theories.*
- ➢ *Research produces new theory.*
- ➢ *It predicts for the future.*

THE IMPACTS OF THEORY ON RESEARCH

The theory has impact on research in two ways.
Deductive method or logic and inductive method or logic

Deductive method
It is a logical process from general to particular.
In deductive approach the researcher begins with an abstract, logical relationship among concepts (theory), then move towards concrete empirical evidences. The researcher may have ideas about how the world operates and wants to test these ideas against hard data.

Inductive method

The logical process from particular to general.

In inductive approach the researcher begins with detailed observation of the social world, thinking in increasingly more abstract ways and moves towards theorical concepts and propositions . A researcher may have only a topic and a few unclear concepts.

DIFFICULTIES IN SOCIAL RESEARCH

Some of the difficulties which a researcher faces during his research work are as under.

1) **Selection of the topic**

  Through the topic selection is not a difficult task, but, how to specify or shrink a vast topic is quite difficult for any researcher. The topic can be specified after reviewing much literature.

2) **Evolving methodology**

  Evolving methodology is obviously a difficult task for any researcher, because he is in trouble how to select a universe, a sample, sample size, tool of data collection, analyzation etc.

3) ***Constructing questionnnari or interview guide***

It is an other difficulty in social research while developing questionnaire or interview guide, that which type of questions should be included, how many questions should be there, where from the questions be deducted etc.

4) ***Maladjustment in the universe***

Due to different social background it remains always a problem for the researcher to adjust in the new universe. The people always think of him as a stranger and with doubt.

5) ***Lack of awareness***

The unawareness of the people about the importance of research also create a big problem for researcher to collect the data from them.

6) __Lack of co-operation__

The researcher always need co-operation from the universe. However, if the people don't co-operate, it can create difficulty for the researcher. Co-operation is in the sense of providing data, accommodation and positive response.

7) __Economic constraints__

Research work needs money and other resources in order to conduct a successful research. The researcher must be fully sufficient regarding research budget, man power and other resources.

8) ***Lack of research experience***

Research work is certainly an experience based activity. The one who is more experienced can easily and accurately conduct the research, but , it is quite difficult for the one who is a new in this field. We have often new researchers who are approximately unfamiliar with the research work, so, they face many difficulties.

9) ***Lake of proper guidance from the seniors***

It has been noted that the senior researchers don't support the juniors. They don't guide them property, which as a result definitely affect the research work. The seniors aught to give time to junior and help them out in work.

THE END