

CHAPTER # 01

Introduction

Lecture no: 02

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

- Definition of social research.
- Importance of social research
- Is sociology a science

DEFINITIONS OF RESEARCH

research is the combination of two words, “re” which means “again and again” and “search” “to find, to discover, to dig”. So, combining the two words, we can define research that finding some thing again and again is termed as research.

“a careful investigation or inquiry specially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge is known as research”. (advanced learner’s dictionary)

“systematic efforts to gain new knowledge is called research”. (Redman and Mory)

DEFINITIONS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

some definitions of social research

According to Clifford woody

“social research comprises defining and redefining social problem, formulating hypothesis and suggest solutions”.

Emory define social research in such a way that

“any organized inquiry designed and carried out to provide information for solving a social problem”.

By C.A. Moser

“social research is a systematic investigation to gain new knowledge about social phenomenon or problem”.

IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

Social research has much more importance in the social world.
Because:

- It is carried out to identify, suggest and solve the social problems.
- It enhances the range of knowledge and makes the discipline dynamic.
- It tests the variables, concepts and hypothesis.
- It brings changes in the social world to move the society towards development.
- Social research develops new concepts, ideas and theories.

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- It explores the new facts and verify the old ones.
- The findings of social research are used for making any policy regarding social progress. (applied research)
- Social research deducts hypothesis from the old theories and test them in a new social situation.
- Social research provides accuracy and precision to the social world.
- It brings reforms in the society.
- It studies the individual and social life.

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- Social research converts the hypothesis into concrete theory.
- It creates inter-relationship between different variables.
- It define and redefine the social problem.
- It proceeds the society from outdated position to the updated position.
- Social research enhances the mental capacity of researcher.
- It paves the way for new researches.

IS SOCIOLOGY A SCIENCE?

This question is most often asked that whether sociology is a science or an art. The answer is that “Sociology is a science” because:

sociology always applies scientific method for exploring the new facts.

To move forward let's define science at first.

“The application of systematic methods to obtain knowledge and the knowledge obtained by these methods”.

(James Henslin)

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The definition of science shows that the systematic method of obtaining new knowledge is called science. So, following this criteria sociology applies systematic method to conduct its research. The research process in sociology goes through the observation of social situation, then formulate hypothesis, then test these hypothesis to develop a theory. It follows and apply all the rules and conditions of scientific community like other sciences to recognize its theory/laws at universal level.



thank you