

PG Department Of Geography, Patna University

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## **Types of Research**

**Introduction-** In layman language research refers to a search for knowledge. Research can also be defined as scientific and systematic search for getting information on a specific topic. Research is a creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of humans and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications OR research is a process through which individual or the researcher helps to search the definite or useful information from the number of respondents to evaluate or solve the problem related questions.

At a general level, research has three steps:

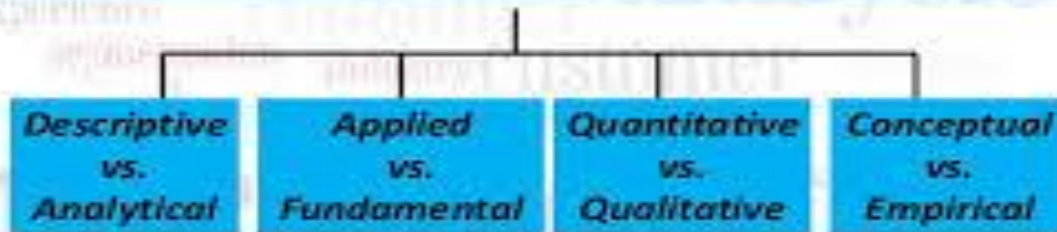
- Pose a question
- Collect the data to answer the question
- Present an answer to the question

### **Types of Research:**

The basic types of research are as follows:-

- i. Quantitative and Qualitative
- ii. Descriptive and Analytical
- iii. Applied and Fundamental
- iv. Exploratory and Conclusive
- v. Conceptual and Empirical

# TYPES OF RESEARCH



Types of research methods can be broadly divided into two **Quantitative and Qualitative**.

**Quantitative research**-Quantitative research is based on the quantitative measurements of some characteristics. It is applicable to phenomena that can be expressed in terms of quantities. Emphasis is placed on the collection of numerical data, the summary of those data and the drawing of inferences from the data.

**Qualitative research**-Qualitative research is based on words, feelings, emotions, sounds and other non-numerical elements. It is concerned with qualitative phenomenon (phenomena relating to or involving quality or kind). Qualitative research is specially important in the behavioural sciences where the aim is to discover the underlying motives of human behaviour

## **Types of Research Methods According to Nature of the Study:**

Types of the research methods according to the nature of research can be divided into two groups: **Descriptive and Analytical**.

**Descriptive research**- Usually involves surveys and studies that aim to identify the facts. In other words, descriptive research includes surveys and fact-finding enquires of different kinds. The major purpose of descriptive research is description of the state of affairs.

Analytical research-On the other hand, is fundamentally different in a way that the researcher has to use facts or information already available and analyses these in order to make a critical evaluation of the material.

**Types of Research Methods According to the Purpose of the Study:**

According to the purpose of the study, types of research methods can be divided into two categories: **Applied research and Fundamental.**

Applied research- Applied research aims at finding a solution for an immediate problem facing by society or organization. It is also referred to as an action research.

Fundamental research- It is mainly concerned with generalizations and with the formulation of a theory and is sometimes called basic or pure research.

**The main differences between Applied Research and Fundamental Research:**

<u>Applied Research</u>	<u>Fundamental Research</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tries to eliminate the theory by adding to the basics of a discipline</li> <li>○ Problems are analyzed from the point of one discipline</li> <li>○ Generalizations are preferred</li> <li>○ Forecasting approach is implemented</li> <li>○ Assumes that other variables do not change</li> <li>○ Reports are compiled in a language of technical language of discipline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aims to solve a problem by adding to the field of application of a discipline</li> <li>○ Often several disciplines work together for solving the problem</li> <li>○ Often researches individual cases without the aim to generalize</li> <li>○ Aims to say how things can be changed</li> <li>○ Acknowledges that other variables are constant by changing</li> <li>○ Reports are compiled in a common language</li> </ul>

## **Types of Research Methods according to Research Design:**

On the basis of research design the types of research methods can be divided into two groups – **Exploratory and Conclusive.**

Exploratory- The objective of exploratory is the development of hypothesis rather than their testing studies only aim to explore the research area and they do not attempt to offer final and conclusive answers to research questions.

Conclusive- Conclusive on the contrary, aim to provide final and conclusive answers to research questions.

### **The main differences between exploratory and conclusive research designs:**

	<u>Exploratory research</u>	<u>Conclusive research</u>
○ Structure	Loosely structured in design	Well-structured and systematic in design
○ Methodology	Are flexible and investigative in methodology	Have a formal and definitive methodology that needs to be followed and tested
○ Hypotheses	Do not involve testing of hypotheses	Most conclusive researches are carried out to test the formulated hypotheses
○ Findings	Findings might be topic specific and might not have much relevance outside of researcher's domain	Findings are significant as they have a theoretical or applied implication

### **Conceptual and Empirical Research:**

Conceptual Research- It is related with some theory or some abstract ideas. It is generally used by philosophers and thinkers to develop new concepts or to reinterpret existing ones.

Empirical Research- It relies on experience or observation alone, often without due regards for system and theory. It is data-based research, coming up with conclusions which are capable of being verified by observation or experiment.