A TRUE RESEARCH PROCESS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES:
A CASE OF INDIAN RESEARCH SECTION

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Abstract:
This paper gives a deep insight of a true research process in social sciences beginning from registration, selection of research topic, review literature, variable identification, preparation of objective and hypotheses, writing research methodology, preparation of questioner and analysis of filled questioner. It will act as a valuable guidance to all such interested to do research in social sciences in terms of time management which usually a big problem a researcher is facing.

Key words: Analysis, Methodology, Questioner, Research Process, Registration and Topic Selection.

Introduction
Research process is one of the unique processes which are applicable in every field but differences do appear in the method of application which varies from subject to subject. Research process given in books and journals explains it in very good manner but once a person experiences it practically, he/she face different things, which basically are explained in this paper. Explanation of research process is mostly realistic and every research scholar faces it, but due to the problems of time he/she can’t write a paper and also can’t share his or her research experience which we tried in the form of this paper. While preparing this paper, we keep in mind its usefulness to all researchers especially to those interested in the field of social sciences which include different areas such as commerce, economics and management etc. This paper is in the form of case study which will make people aware of the research before they decide to join it in any field of social science. In this paper we tried to explain various real stages of research where a scholar faces problems and suggested more possible solution to overcome such problems. Very true and real fact is that research process is really very complicated, costly and time consuming.
due to an outcome of the internal and external environment which a research scholar faces during the period of research.

**Research Methodology**

Research methodology used is ‘Qualitative’ in nature in which we took personal interview of 20 research scholars who belonged to different universities of North India. In-depth interviews were conducted for about two to three hours on each research scholar for understanding his/her research experience. With the help of such kind of research technique, we summarised their research experiences in the form of this case study.

**Objectives**

Objectives of this paper which form the back bone of the research process and give a glimpse of how research is being conducted and what problems a researcher comes across are as under:

- Process for research registration
- Process to select research topic;
- Process to find out research variable;
- Process to prepare objectives and hypotheses;
- Process to write research methodology;
- Process related to the preparation of questioner; and
- Analysis phase of the data.

**Process for research registration**

Any person interested to join education sector, after completing his or her master degree is eligible for research as per UGC guideline, but now a day’s most of the reputed research centres, state and deemed universities only allow admission to those who have qualified NET/JRF. After qualifying this basic requirement, he/she can apply in different universities as per the area of interest related to subject. After the enrolment in a particular university/research centre, the real process of research starts, but sometime it starts even before enrolling depending upon the personal interest of the student and the relations with that university/research centre. As per the Indian psychology, admission in research is all about ‘favouritism’ (*Jugar*) and most of the student interact with professors even before admission and shows their interest to pursue research under his/her supervision, which in real sense is not actually there. When a student interacts with a professor, there comes only one question- what is the good topic of research and how can he/she prepare research proposal?. This is why in most of the Indian universities title and synopsis of the research thesis is almost finalised at the time of registration or finalised within one month after registration without a proper understanding of the availability of the literature which forms the base of the research. However in few universities the title and synopsis of research thesis is finalised after completion of literature review and most of times it takes 6 to 12 months or more but during this process researcher has a liberty to change his or her research topic, which in long run creates problems and flaws in his/her research due to dispersion in choosing topics. One more important shortcut of finalization of topic is that a professor/supervisor suggests topic of research to his research scholar, but again if the scholar
faces any problem related to data collection on the given topic, he or she blames his/her supervisor for such kind of topic, which again creates tensions and depression. Sometimes a research scholar selects his/her own topic and if he/she faces any problem, they are liable for their work. End of the story is that when admissions are finalized, research student might go under some other supervisor due to decisions of the doctoral committee and in this way all his/her above mentioned plans turn in to a catastrophe. Again the above process starts to rebuilt the relationship again with new supervisor and most probable the research topic might also change, so it is better the research student to discuss his/her research topic after registration in research program with his or her allotted supervisor after a deep understanding of the literature and its gaps. Approximately 20 to 30 percent of research student has got successes in shortcut methods, because they had got same supervisors and same topic to be worked upon which was discussed by them with the same supervisors prior to admission. 70 to 80 percent students had got problems and faced depression and other health hazards. Figure 1.1 represent three directions of research.

First Direction: 1—2—3—4—5;
Second Direction: 1—2’—3’—3—4’; and
Third Direction: 1—2’—3’—3—4’’—5’—6;

As per the experience of research scholars, direction second consumes less time and direction third consumes more time but direction first consume real time because this path doesn’t contain any biasing pattern as shown in figure 1.1 as under.

**Figure 1.1**
**Three Direction of research process**
There are three fundamental methods/ways of selecting topic in social science researches as detailed under:

**First**: Selection of topic on which your supervisor has already worked;

**Second**: Develop your own research topic by doing hard work (literature survey and gaps identification); and

**Third**: Select topic first, then ready for hard work otherwise you may face so many problem while ending your research work in the form of thesis.

The best way of completing PhD on time is to take a research topic on which your supervisor has already worked. In this method your supervisor will provide you all types of resources from which you are able to complete your research work on time. Moreover you will not face any cross questioning and any extra effort to find something new. Such types of researches are conducted when the supervisor is either in search of promotions or in relation with the student. The other side of such type of research is constructive, when a supervisor really wants to explore something new, which he failed at his own time.

The choice of second method is really cumbersome and it will take more time to finish your research programme. This is because work has to be done from grass hood level and most of research work is done by your own otherwise this method is very easy because there is a proper direction just from the beginning of literature survey. This type of research is beneficial to researcher because he/she gets an understanding of research in terms of clarity of the fundamentals of the research. Selection of the third method is considered waste as per the opinion of various research scholars. In this method what happens, the scholar on one side is new in research and on other side his/her supervisor is also not interested to give valuable advice to him/her related to the topic. This results in to aggression from scholar’s side and selection of topic from internet or from friends who might be pursuing research in social sciences. All of this creates problems in research work from the beginning to end which ultimately increases the research time of the scholar or some time scholar changes his or her topic after one or two years of research work if research organization permits. For more understanding see figure 1.2.
Figure 1.2
Three Method to select Ph. D Topic

Process to find out research variable

After finalization of the topic of research, research scholar goes for literature review, which again depends on the terms of research organization and the supervisor and scholar itself. In some research organizations, the topic is finalized after deep reviewing of literature and understanding the gaps in it. Supervisor and scholar also play an important role depending upon the curiosity and interest in knowing the thing all around. The concept of writing literature review is given in various books but at the beginning of research, researcher faces so many problems while collecting proper literature which actually belong to the topic of research. After collecting a number of research papers related to the topic, the research scholar identifies important variable, finds out the gaps and turn these gaps in to research objectives. This is one of the most difficult processes because identification of improper variable related to research topic may create problems at the time of preparation of objective and finalization of questioner which may create result in the deviation from the actual research topic. Doing this will create problem at the end of research when thesis goes for blind review. So it’s advisable to collect related literature, identify proper and relevant variables and take expert suggestions from the people who belong to same field. For more understanding see figure 1.3:
Process to prepare objective and hypotheses
Finalization of research objectives is also a complicated process because objectives should be related to the topic of research as hypotheses depend totally on objectives. It is always advisable that the objective of research should be prepared on the basis of literature review after the verification of the variables. It is also desirable that the research scholar should prepare objectives in the form of primary and secondary objectives. Primary objectives should be not more than three or four and secondary objectives not more than four or five. Hypotheses should be prepared on the basis of primary objectives. If a research scholar sets various objectives, then it creates problems resulting in to confusion at the time of analysis of the data. So it’s better to prepare research objectives in very specific manner. For more understanding see figure 1.4.

Figure 1.3
Research variable Identification process

Figure 1.4
Process to Select objective and hypotheses
Process to write research methodology
Research methodology is one of the most important segments of the thesis and forms the back bone of the research. In research methodology researcher has to write the process by way of which he/she conducts his/her research on the selected topic. To write good methodology researcher need to have a good understanding and knowledge of statistics. This is because of the reason that interpretation of the results totally depends on how well he/she understands the statistical output results. Research methodology starts from; selection of research design, defining sample size, sampling technique and all statistical tests related to prove or disprove the stated hypotheses. Choice of selection of proper statistical tests is very critical thing in social science researches, because the inappropriate or wrong tests will totally change the sense and charm of research. Hence it is advisable to learn statistical tolls very carefully to avoid such kind of ambiguity in research. For more understanding see figure 1.5.

Figure 1.5
Preparation of research methodology

Process related to the preparation of questioner
After a deep literature survey and identification of all relevant variables, the research scholar goes for the preparation of questioner based on his or her research topic. Again an improper literature survey may result in to choice of inappropriate variables which will result in to improper questionnaire. Hence it is suggested that all previous researches on the said topic must be reviewed properly so that it may not create any problem in future. Some important points which should be remembered at the time of preparation of questioner by the researcher are as: language of the questioner should be simple which could be easily understood by the target audience and length of the questioner should not be more than three to four pages, because it will lack the interest of the respondent. Moreover expert opinion should be taken and modifications should be incorporated before finalization of questionnaire. One most important thing that always keeps in mind of each researcher is, whether the results will be same as expected or not.
Hence it is advisable to conduct a pilot study on a small sample of respondents so as to understand their way of responses towards his/her questionnaire and check whether the results of the questioner are appropriate with respect to the objective and hypotheses of the research topic. If small testing of questioner gives better results, then researcher will go for final data collection otherwise it is suggested to modify the questioner. For more understanding see figure 1.6.

**Figure 1.6**
Preparation of Questioner

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**Analysis phase of data**

Analysis of data is done by two methods, first with the help of manual calculation and second with the help of SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). The process of manual calculation is usually cumbersome, time consuming and complicated in nature but the reliability factor by manual calculation is very high due to less possibility of errors. On the other hand analysis by SPSS software reduce the time of calculations, but the problem is that very few research scholars and supervisors know the working mechanism of this software. Hence the majority of the research scholar searches for third party to conduct the statistical operations. Big
flaw in this way is that the third party is not well aware about the data and conducts analysis as per his/her own choice, not as per the requirements of the researcher. This will totally change the sense of research, hence it is advisable to all researchers to learn the SPSS properly and conduct the analysis of the data by their own.

**Conclusion**

This case study gives the real understanding of research in social sciences in India. Beginning from the topic selection to analysis of the end results, it shows the various problems faced by a researcher and gives the best possible ways to overcome such problems. This way, it will be beneficial to all those who might be dreaming or planning to start research in this field.

**References**

This case study does not contain any references because it is based on real life experience of various research scholars.