



Research problem formation

Research Problem

A **research problem** is a statement about an area of concern, a condition to be improved, a difficulty to be eliminated, or a troubling question that exists in theory, or in practice that points to the need for understanding and research.

Purpose of Research Problem

- Introduce the reader to the importance of the subject being studied.
- Places the problem into a particular context that defines the parameters of what is to be investigated.
- Determine what is probably necessary to conduct the study and explain how the findings will present this information.

Types of research problems

1. Theoretical research problems
2. Applied research problems
3. Practical research problems



Criteria for Good Research

- **Novelty**

It should be sufficiently original so that it does not involve objectionable duplication.

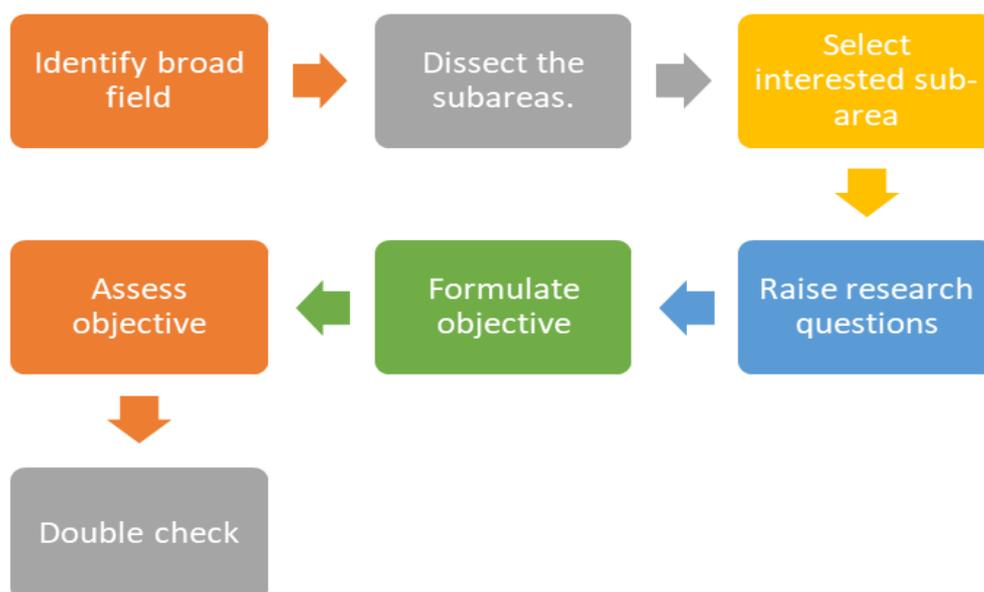
- **Interesting**

The problem should be interesting for the investigator himself. He should have the strength to face and overcome the problem.

- **Importance**

It should be significant enough and involve an important principle or practice. **If it is not worthwhile, it neither adds to knowledge nor leads to any improvements in current practices, it would be in vain.**

Steps in formulating the research problem



How to define a research problem

Consider following these steps when aiming to define your own research problem:

1. Identify a general area of interest
2. Learn more about the problem
3. Review the context of the information
4. Determine relationships between variables
5. Select and include important variables
6. Receive feedback and revise

Sources of Research Problem

- Personal Experience
- Practical Experience
- Previous research
- Existing theories
- Consumer feedback
- Intuition
- Exposure to field situations