

5. FORMULATION OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Learning Objectives

- At the end of this session the students will be able to:
 - ⦿ Develop research objectives of different forms

Objectives

- A research objective summarize what is to be achieved by the study.

Importance

- Narrows and focus the study
- Guides information to be collected
- Facilitate development of METHODOLOGY
- help to orient the collection, analysis, interpretation and utilization of data.
- Helps for evaluating the project

Objectives ...

- Research objectives are usually classified into **general objectives and specific objectives.**

1. General objective:

- ⦿ Summarizes what is to be achieved by the study in general terms
- ⦿ Should be clearly related to the statement of the problem
- ⦿ Usually only one per study
- ⦿ Related to *core problem* and *topic* of the study
- ⦿ Shows target population and place

2. Specific objectives:

- ◉ are logically connected parts of the general objective
- ◉ Describe the variables that are measured by the study
- ◉ Several in one study
- ◉ Use action *verbs* such as:
 - determine -verify -identify
 - describe - assess - compare
 - calculate - establish -explore

Qualities of specific objectives

- **Stated in logical sequence**
- **Clear and unambiguous**
 - ⊙ What is to be done?
- **Specific**
 - ⊙ Addressing one thing only
- **Measurable**
 - ⊙ Can be evaluated
 - Use proper action verbs (*Determine, Find out, Identify*)

Qualities ...

- ❑ **Attainable**, given the resources available
- ❑ **Realistic**, given the local conditions
- ❑ **Time bound**, can be achieved in the given time
- ❖ In qualitative studies the statement of objectives is not as precise as in quantitative studies.
- ❖ In qualitative studies you should simply mention an overall objective of the study

What formats can be used for stating research objectives?

Research objectives can be stated as:

- A. **Questions:** “The objectives of this study are to answer the following questions ...”
- B. **Positive sentence:** “The objectives of this study are to determine ...”
- C. **Hypothesis:** “The objective of this study is to verify the following hypothesis...”

What formats cont...

- The format chosen depends on the type of study that will be undertaken.
- If the study is descriptive or exploratory in nature, then objectives are stated in the form of questions or positive sentences.
- If the researcher knows enough to make predictions concerning what s/he is studying, then hypotheses may be proposed.