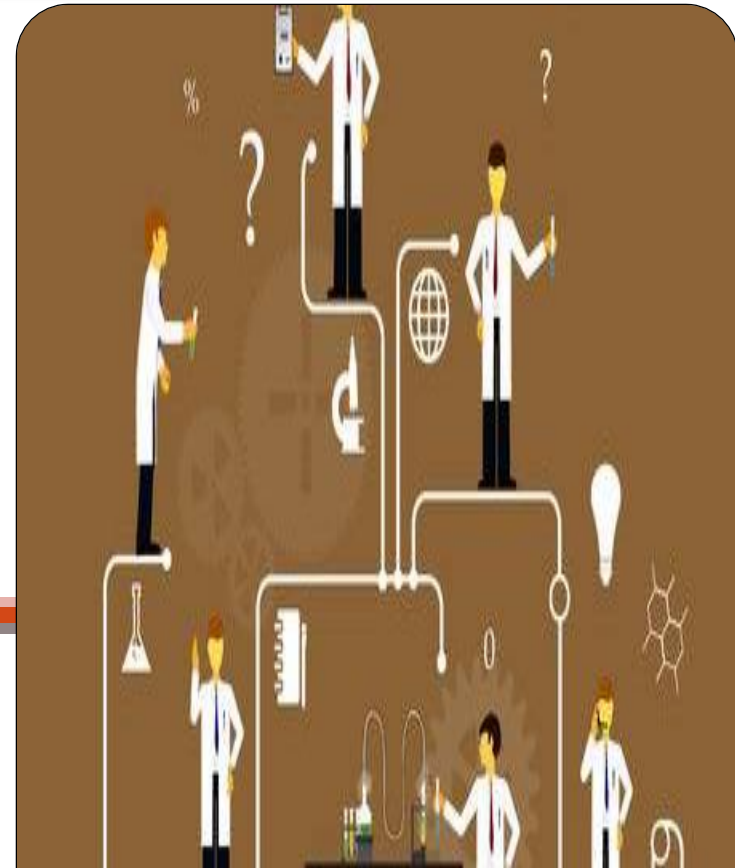# Unit-II, Research Process in Social Work Module-1 & 2

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Unit-II,Research Process & Sampling Module-1 & 2

1- Steps in the Process of Research

2. Formulation of a Research Problem

Research Process

The research process involves identifying, locating, assessing, and analyzing the information you need to support your research question, and then developing and expressing your ideas. A typical research process comprises the following stages:

- Selection of Research Problem
- Extensive Literature Survey
- Developing the Hypothesis
- Preparing the Research Design
- Determining Sampling Design
- Data collection
- Analysis of Data
- Hypothesis Testing
- Generalization and Interpretation
- Preparation of the Report or presentation of the results, i.e. Formal write-up of conclusions reached

Selection of Research Problem

- The selection of topic for research is a difficult job. When we select a title or research statement, then other activities would be easy to perform.

- So, for the understanding thoroughly the problem it must have to discuss with colleagues, friend, experts and teachers.

- The research topic or problem should be practical, relatively important, feasible, ethically and politically acceptable.

Literature Review

- After the selection of research problem, the second step is that of literature mostly connected with the topics.

- The availability of the literature may bring ease in the research.

- For this purpose academic journals, conference and govt. reports and library must be studied.

Making Hypothesis

- The development of hypothesis is a technical work depends on the researcher experience.

- The hypothesis is to draw the positive & negative cause and effect aspects of a problem.

- Hypothesis narrows down the area of a research and keep a researcher on the right path.

Preparing the Research Design

- After the formulation of the problem and creating hypothesis for it, research Design is to prepare by the researcher. It may draw the conceptual structure of the problem.

- Any type of research design may be made, depend on the nature and purpose of the study. Daring

- Research Design the information about sources, skill, time and finance is taken into consideration

Sampling

The researcher must design a sample. It is a plan for taking its respondents from a specific areas or universe. The sample may be of two types:

- Probability Sampling
- Non-probability Sampling

Data Collection

- Data collection is the most important work, is researcher. The collection of information must be containing on facts which is from the following two types of researcher.

- **Primary Data Collection:** Primary data may be from the following.
  - Experiment
  - Questionnaire
  - Observation
  - Interview

- **Secondary data collection:** it has the following categories:
  - Review of literature
  - Official and non-official reports
  - Library approach

Data Analysis

- When data is collected, it is forwarded for analysis which is the most technical job. Data analysis may be divided into two main categories.

- **Data Processing:** it is sub-divided into the following.

- Data editing, Data coding, Data classification, Data tabulation, Data presentation, Data measurement

- **Data Exposition:** Date Exposition has the following sub-categories.

- Description, Explanation, Narration, Conclusion/Findings, Recommendations/Suggestions

Hypothesis Testing

- Research data is then forwarded to test the hypothesis.

- Do the hypothesis are related to the facts or not? To find the answer the process of testing hypothesis is undertaken which may result in accepting or rejecting the hypothesis.
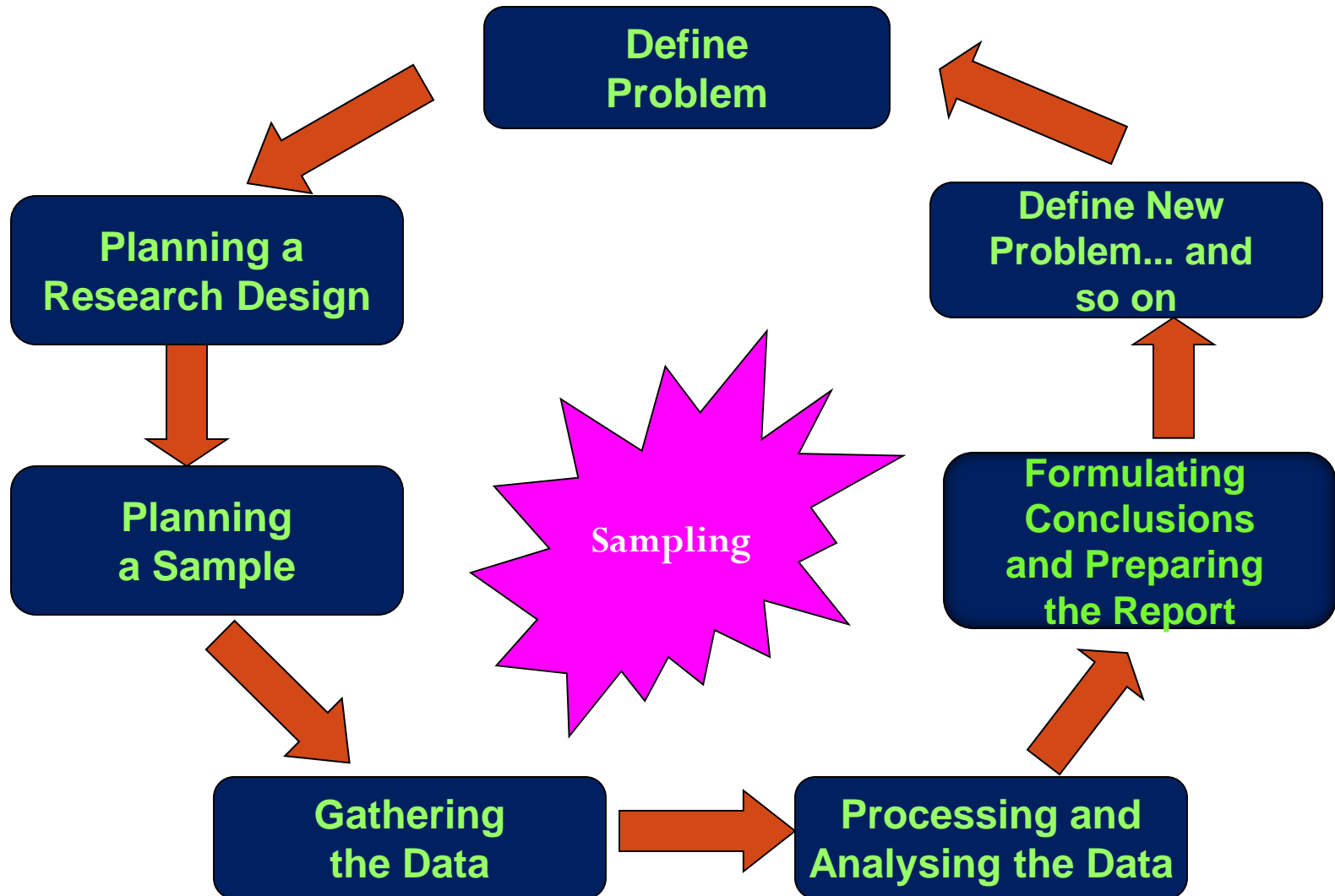
Generalization and Interpretation

- The acceptable hypothesis is possible for researcher to arrival at the process of generalization or to make & theory.

- Some types of research has no hypothesis for which researcher depends upon on theory which is known as interpretation.

Preparation of Report

A researcher should prepare a report for which he has done his work. He must keep in his mind the following points:

- Report Design in Primary Stages
- Main Text of the Report
- Closing the Report

Stages in the Research Process

Define Problem

Planning a Research Design

Planning a Sample

Sampling

Formulating Conclusions and Preparing the Report

Define New Problem... and so on

Gathering the Data

Processing and Analysing the Data

The Research Cycle

- The Research Cycle
  - http://questioning.org/rcycle.html
    - QUESTIONING
    - PLANNING
    - GATHERING
    - SORTING & SIFTING
    - SYNTHESIZING
    - EVALUATING
    - REPORTING*
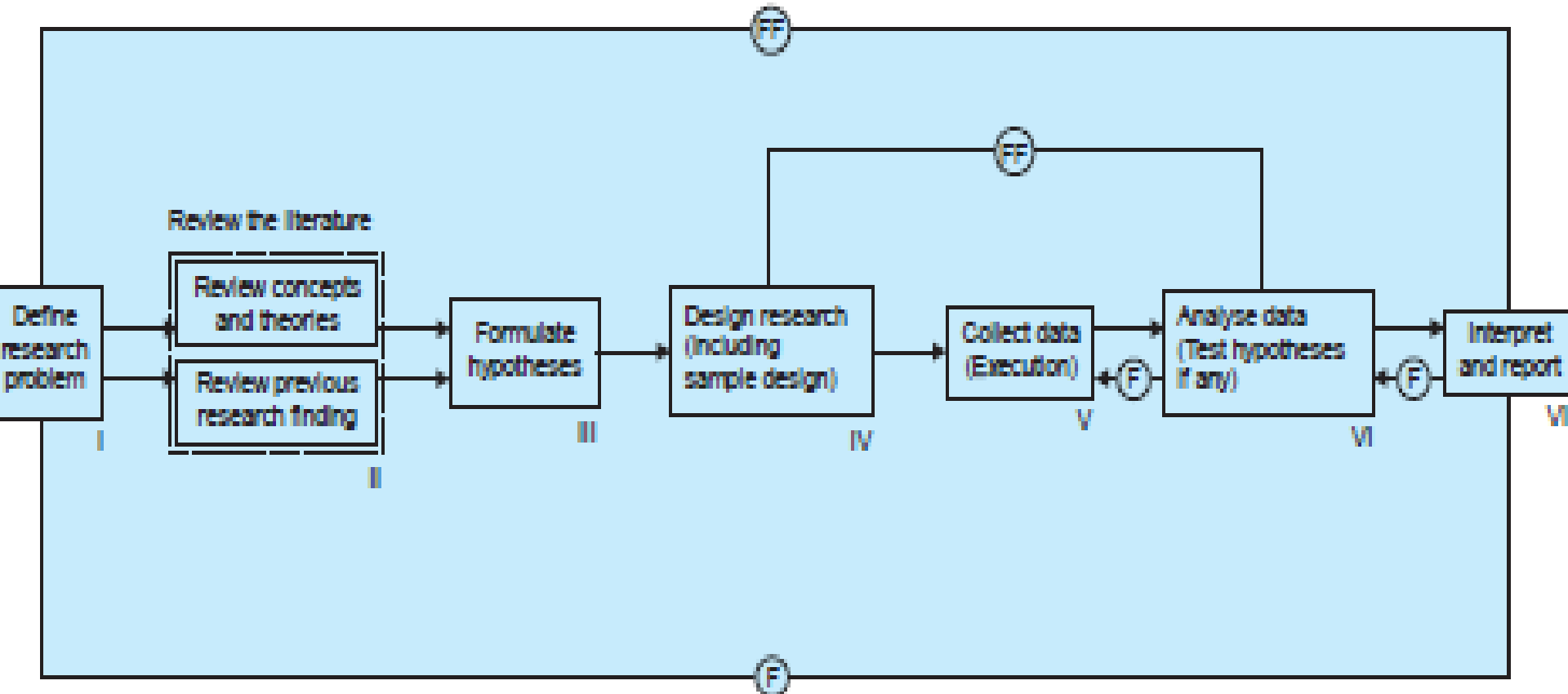- http://questioning.org/module/cycle.html
- *Research Project?*
- http://www.ri.net/schools/East_Greenwich/research.html

Flowcharting the Research Process

RESEARCH PROCESS IN FLOW CHART

Where (F) = feed back (Helps in controlling the sub-system to which it is transmitted)

(FF) = feed forward (Serves the vital function of providing criteria for evaluation)

Research Problem

Objective..

- To understand some basic concepts of research and its methodologies.

- To identify appropriate research topics.

- To select and define research problem and parameters.

- To prepare research proposal or to write research report.

What is a Research & Research Problem?

Research-

The broad general area expected to investigate.

It is a broad idea or concept from which many problems may be delineated.

Research is common term refers to search of knowledge.

Research Problem-

A situation and circumstances that requires a solution to be described, explained, or predicted.

Research Problem

- The research problem is a general statement of an issue meriting research or identifies the problem or situation to be studied. Its nature will suggest appropriate forms for its investigation.

- A research problem is a definite or clear expression [statement] about an area of concern, a condition to be improved upon, a difficulty to be eliminated, or a troubling question that exists in scholarly literature, in theory, or within existing practice that points to a need for meaningful understanding and deliberate investigation.

- A research problem does not state how to do something, offer a vague or broad proposition, or present a value question.

- A research problem is a specific issue, difficulty, contradiction, or gap in knowledge that you will aim to address in your research.

Purpose of a Problem Statement

- **Introduce the reader to the importance of the topic being studied**. The reader is oriented to the significance of the study.

- **Anchors the research questions, hypotheses, or assumptions to follow**. It offers a concise statement about the purpose of your paper.

- **Place the topic into a particular context** that defines the parameters of what is to be investigated.

- **Provide the framework for reporting the results** and indicates what is probably necessary to conduct the study and explain how the findings will present this information.

Selecting a Problem

Guidelines for selecting a research problem-

- Subject which is overdone should not be chosen

- An average researcher must not choose Controversial topics

- Too narrow or too vague problems should be avoided

- The chosen subject should be familiar or feasible

- Significance and Importance of subject must be given attention

- Cost and time factor must be kept in mind

- Experience, Qualification and Training of the researcher must be according to the problem in hand

Formulating a Research Problem

The steps involved in formulating a research problem are as follows-

- Develop a suitable title
- Build a conceptual model of the problem
- Define the objectives of the study
- Set up investigative questions
- Formulate hypothesis
- State the operational definition of concepts
- Determine the scope & limitations of the study

Necessity of Defining a Problem

The problem to be investigated must be clearly

Defined in order to-

- Discriminate relevant data from the irrelevant one
- To keep a track and make a strategy
- Formulate objectives
- Choose a appropriate Research Design
- Lay down boundaries and limits

Technique Involved in Defining a Research Problem

A researcher may define a research problem by-

- Defining the statement of the problem in a general way.

- Understanding the nature of the problem.

- Surveying the available literature.

- Developing ideas through discussions an brain storming.

- Rephrasing the research problems.

There are few rules that must be kept in mind while defining a research problem. They are-

- Technical terms should be clearly defined.

- Basic assumptions should be stated.

- The criteria for the selection should be provided.

- Suitability of the time period and sources of data available must be considered.

- The scope of the investigation or the limits must be mentioned.

Conceptualizations of a Research Problem

- **Casuist Research Problem** -- this type of problem relates to the determination of right and wrong in questions of conduct or conscience by analyzing moral dilemmas through the application of general rules and the careful distinction of special cases.

- **Difference Research Problem** -- typically asks the question, "Is there a difference between two or more groups or treatments?" This type of problem statement is used when the researcher compares or contrasts two or more phenomena.

- **Descriptive Research Problem** -- typically asks the question, "what is…?" with the underlying purpose to describe the significance of a situation, state, or existence of a specific phenomenon.

- **Relational Research Problem** -- suggests a relationship of some sort between two or more variables to be investigated. The underlying purpose is to investigate specific qualities or characteristics that may be connected in some way.

Sources of Problems for Investigation

- **Deductions from Theory**
- **Interdisciplinary Perspectives**
- **Interviewing Practitioners**
- **Personal Experience**
- **Relevant Literature**
- **Curiosity**
- **Consultations with Experts**
- **Previous Research**
- **Social Issues**
- **Folklores**
- **Exposure to Field Situation**
- **Controversy**
- **Information Gaps**

The Problem statement should address all six questions: what, how, where, when, why and who

Quality of a Good Research Statement

- A good problem statement begins by introducing the broad area in which your research is centred, gradually leading the reader to the more specific issues you are investigating.

- The statement need not be lengthy, but a good research problem should incorporate the following features.

1. Compelling Topic

The problem chosen should be one that motivates you to address it but simple curiosity is not a good enough reason to pursue a research study because this does not indicate significance. The problem that you choose to explore must be important to you, but it must also be viewed as important by your readers and to a the larger academic and/or social community that could be impacted by the results of your study.

2. Supports Multiple Perspectives

The problem must be phrased in a way that avoids dichotomies and instead supports the generation and exploration of multiple perspectives. A general rule of thumb in the social sciences is that a good research problem is one that would generate a variety of viewpoints from a composite audience made up of reasonable people.

3. Researchability

This isn't a real word but it represents an important aspect of creating a good research statement. It seems a bit obvious, but you don't want to find yourself in the midst of investigating a complex research project and realize that you don't have enough prior research to draw from for your analysis. There's nothing inherently wrong with original research, but you must choose research problems that can be supported, in some way, by the resources available to you.

Research Problem Vs Research Topic

- Do not confuse a research problem with a research topic.

- A topic is something to read and obtain information about, whereas a problem is something to be solved or framed as a question raised for inquiry, consideration, or solution, or explained as a source of perplexity, distress, or vexation.

- In short, a research topic is something to be understood; a research problem is something that needs to be investigated.

Write about a Research Problem

There are generally three ways you are asked to write about a research problem:

1) your professor provides you with a general topic from which you study a particular aspect;

2) your professor provides you with a list of possible topics to study; or,

3) your professor leaves it up to you to choose a topic and you only have to obtain permission to write about it before beginning your investigation.

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- Some materials/information taken from "online Research Methodology Course of IARA-India", from 6th-12th April'2020.

Thank You