

SCIENTIFIC SOCIAL RESEARCH

**SEM-2
AN-CE45
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY & ETHNOGRAPHY**



**Dr. Debendra Kumar Biswal
Professor
Department of Anthropology
Utkal University**

WHAT IS RESEARCH?

- Manipulation of things, concepts or symbols
- For generalizations
- To extend, correlate or verify knowledge
- Knowledge may be used for construction of a theory or practice or an act.
- *What is it? : Descriptive research*
- *How is it?: Descriptive research*
- *Why is it? Explanatory research*
- *What will it be? Prediction*



SCIENTIFIC RULES

- Causes of natural things
- Same natural effects- same causes
- Qualities of bodies
- proposition



NORMS OF A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

1. Preliminary hypothesis
2. Testing of Hypothesis /Logic of testing hypothesis
3. Controlled inquiry/Eliminative procedures
4. Corrigibility
5. Inter-subjectivity
6. General laws, to ensure systematic explanations and dependable predictions



SCIENTIFIC METHOD

- Reliance on empirical evidence
- Use of relevant concepts
- Commitment to objectivity
- Ethical neutrality
- Generality
- Predictions based on probability
- Public methodology affording testing of conclusions through replication



HOW ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH IS UNIQUE

1. Logic involved in anthropology is the same as in all other scholarships
2. Minimizing the role of human factor in social research
3. Jump to field job with whatever techniques are available
4. Participant observation
5. Holistic study
6. Approach is non-eliminative
7. Nature of ethnographic study is ideographic
8. **Quantification and use of statistics** are praised



GOAL OF RESEARCH

- To generate knowledge about physical/natural world and social world
- What is knowledge?
- What counts as knowledge?
- The two questions relate to epistemology
- What is epistemology?
- Theory of knowledge



THEORIES OF KNOWLEDGE

- What counts as knowledge?
- What is the justification of what counts as knowledge?
- Knowledge involves abstraction from reality
- We use concepts to capture reality or part of reality- concepts are abstractions



WHAT IS A THEORY?

- interrelated set of statements couched in a conceptual language
- Theory: gives a description of the phenomena (what is it? How is it?)
- Provides explanations to the interrelations between/among phenomena (Why is it): why the phenomena are related the way they are.

Explanations help in prediction



NATURE OF KNOWLEDGE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Initially social sciences modeled themselves along the lines of theories and methods of natural sciences
- Positivism as a philosophy of knowledge:
- Phenomena are governed by laws.
- observations have primacy.
- The task of the science is to discover laws



EMPIRICIST THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE: INDUCTIVE METHOD

- From Singular observational statements to general statement through verification
- Pre-supposition less observations
- Unbiased, objective observations
- Problematique of Induction:
- Adequacy of number of observations
- We cannot make conclusive statements
- Resort to probabilistic statements



RATIONALIST THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE: DEDUCTIVE METHOD

- From general statements to a particular instance
- Structure of deductive logic: general statement, an instance and conclusion
- General statements/ theories/ bold conjectures
- Deduction of hypothesis from general statements
- Even one instance which goes against the hypothesis is enough to reject the hypothesis



TRADITIONS OF RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Positivist- rationalist
- Interpretative
- Historical materialism



POSITIVIST-RATIONALIST TRADITION

- Structural-functional approach.
- Surveys are extensive and provide macro-level

summary descriptions regarding the socio-economic and demographic backgrounds, experiences, and opinions. *Apriori* concepts and their measurement at different levels: nominal (qualitative) ordinal and interval ratio scales

Instrument of data collection: questionnaire



Thank you

