

## **STEPS IN RESEARCH PROCESS**

### **1. Identification of Research Problems**

This involves Identifying existing problems in an area of study (e.g. Home Economics), identification of the problem area and the specific problem within the area. Generally research is directed towards three cumulative problems; Descriptive when a study is designed primarily to describe what is going on or what exists, Relational when a study is designed to look at the relationships between two or more variables, Causal when a study is designed to determine whether one or more variables (e.g., a program or treatment variable) causes or affects one or more outcome variables.

### **2. Effective Review of Literature**

The main purpose of literature Review is to clarify some fundamental concepts involved in the study, to find out, what other people have done in the area under study, and the gaps to be filled up. Literature review should provide theoretical background or framework to the study. It should address all the key concepts involved in the study.

Sources of Literature materials: Primary source: Information obtained directly from the author/researcher through some of the following sources ; archeological evidence, journal articles, interviews obtained through Newspaper, Radio and Television programmes, Videophone, Internet system and oral interview.

Secondary sources: Information from compiled from primary sources like text books, Encyclopaedia, featured articles in newspapers, documentary programmes on radio, television, internet etc. They are compiled information from Primary sources.

Reasons for conducting Literature search

- Provision of theoretical frame work for the study.
- To know the state of knowledge.,
- Acquaintance with problems encountered by previous researchers.
- Know the methodology and tools employed in solving the previous related problems.
- Addressed all the key concepts involved in the study
- Identification of research variables that are relevant and of importance to the study.

To facilitate interpretation of outcomes of research findings.

Tips on effective literature search

Identify and list topics and sub-topics that are relevant to the study and to variable of interest to the research problem.

Identify materials that can provide the information above

Search for relevant titles in books, journal articles, book of abstracts to locate your facts and concepts.

Document your sources of facts/information.

### **3. Research Plan and Design**

Plans for research should take into consideration the following; design of the study, area of the study, population of the study, Sample and sampling technique, identification of instrument to be used for collection of data, description of instrument for data collection, validity of the instrument, reliability of the instrument, Utilisation/Administration of the instrument and scoring of the instrument, Methods to be used for data analysis.

Design of the study refers to the plan, structure, and strategy the investigator wants to adopt in order to obtain answers to research questions and probably test hypotheses formulated for the study. It also includes the outline of the investigator's plan in relation to the analysis of data. Various types of designs may be used either singly and in combination, depending on the nature of research problems. They include; Survey, Experimental, Quasi Experimental, Ex Post Facto, Descriptive, Observational, Historical, Causal-comparative, Correlation, Evaluative.

Area of the study It is necessary to identify and describe briefly in your research report the area where the study would be conducted. It might also be necessary to justify the use of the area for the study. Such Justification should point to use of the area as a one that would enhance the validity and reliability of the study. This could be in relation to

political, geographical, educational, cultural or economical homogeneity.

**Population of the study** A population is any group of individuals, objects, events that have one or more characteristics which are of common interest to the researcher. It is meant to identify subjects that would provide accurate and reliable information for the study. Subjects could be human beings, objects, events or phenomena. Identification of population is necessary for the determination of areas where the results or findings of the study will be generalized. Population is the group (theoretical population) you wish to generalize to as this is the group you would like to take your sample (accessible population) from because this is the group you are interested in

**Sample** a study is the proportion of a population selected for observation and analysis with a view to making inferences to the population. In selecting a sample, the investigator must; ensure that he is not biased. In other words, he should do his sample at random in order to give every subject equal and independent chances of being selected for the study. Sample should be sufficiently large enough to serve as a representative of the population. If he is assigning subjects to treatment groups, he should employ random assignment. This will help him make valid generalization of the findings. Investigators should select suitable sampling options that suits his/her study. These includes; Simple random sampling , systematic sampling ( This is appropriate where a population has been listed accurately and categorised subsets of that population is to be selected randomly), stratified sampling (Applicable where the population is made up of smaller homogeneous groups that need to be represented in the study in order to obtain accurate information e.g. in a population different attributes like religious affiliations, socio-economic status and other characteristics as sex, age, academic qualification etc., It would be necessary to sub-divide the population into smaller groups as such characteristics will constitute a source of difference in opinion, attitude or perception of the population.

Cluster sampling (Where the population is large and widely scattered so that the investigator finds it convenient to select clusters or groups at random and all the members studied), Sequential sampling (The researcher selects at random successive smaller samples and studies them until there is no need for further samples). Double or multi stage sampling ( Here sampling is done in stages, e.g. one can sample education in the state and within an education zone, schools may be sampled and within the schools, teachers or students are sampled). In Purposive sampling, sampling is done by convenience. This sampling technique is usually unscientific as a single object or event is selected for sampling.