



**ADOPTING EMPIRICAL RESEARCHES AS
INSTRUMENTS FOR DIAGNOSIS FOR FINDING
SOLUTIONS TO HUMAN CONTEMPORARY
PROBLEMS IN NIGERIA.**

***VEN EGESI JONATHAN C.; **NWARU CHRISTIANA CHINWE;
& **UCHECHI DIKE**

**Imo State Polytechnic, Umuagwo –Ohaji, P.M.B 1472, Owerri, Nigeria.*

***Imo State Polytechnic, Umugwo-Ohaji*

Abstract

Research as a topic or discourse has attracted various definitions and interpretations in our contemporary society. For our purpose here we take it as a systematic effort at gaining new knowledge and solutions to given human problems. Also research has been seen as a systematic and objective each for new knowledge to the solution of a novel problem .Regrettably, it has been discovered above other things that various scholars nowadays do not conduct diagnosis or researches to find out the workable solutions to various problems rather they simply adopt one strategy or the other in an attempt to solve the problem. This study is a clarion call for all and sundry to fall back to researching other than doing trial and error when it come to proffering answers to disturbing situations. Various data collection techniques were adopted in the course of this study which include but not limited to oral interviews, use of textbooks, questionnaire, periodicals and the internet. A theory was adopted as a theoretical foundation for the study .The study concluded with the scholars making case that empirical research is like conducting a test on a patient to know the appropriate medication to be administered on him or her and should not be relegated to the background.

Keywords: *Adoption, Empirical research, Instrument, Diagnosis, solutions*

INTRODUCTION

It has been said over and over again that problems in human society persist. Its possible solutions are expected to come through researching and probing .It has been discovered that solutions to problems should be sought inwards

rather than importing answers or taking certain unnecessary gamble. Nigeria as a country has reached the level that we cannot afford to try out things. We need to be certain of what possible solution we need to apply for certain situations. It has been observed that research can take various forms depending on the purpose for which the research is conducted so to speak. It must be established that research is the systematic and objective recording and analysis of controlled observations that may lead to the development of generalizations, principles or theories, resulting in prediction and process of testing rather than proving and it implies an objective that lets the data lead where they will. It is a systematic way of trying to provide solutions or answers to problems by following well laid down procedures to improve the accuracy of findings. It must also be established that research is scholarly and scientific as well as diligent investigation in seeking facts or principles. Research has some of these characteristics which include the fact that research aims at solving problems which seem to be the most important of them all. Research is equally conducted in a systematic and objective manner. Equally is based upon accurate observable experience and description. Research emphasizes the development of generalization, principles or theories that will be helpful in predicting future occurrences. It is believed that if our researching in Nigeria as a country will have these qualities in order to provide answers to certain disturbing situations in the country.

TYPES OF RESEARCH

There are various types of research, but we shall take a look at some of them which go a long way in proffering solutions to given problems.

It must be established that the need or essence of research is purely to solve problems.

BASIC RESEARCH

This type of research is equally considered as pure research or better still fundamental research and is aimed at discovering basic truths or basic principles. This type of research is usually undertaken to mainly for the expansion of theories and utilization here, we see testing and development of theory and it may or may not be immediately concerned with field application of the developed theory.

APPLIED RESEARCH

This is considered primarily with establishing relationships and testing theories in the field setting. Most educational research is applied research for it attempt to develop generalizations about teaching learning processes and instructional materials. Here, we are dealing with applied research when our research on two teaching methods for example are aimed at knowing which of the two methods is better or why one method works better than the other. Another example is the study that seeks to find out which form of motivation promotes a high sense of academic performance among pupils with learning difficulties.

ACTION RESEARCH

Action research focuses on a problem in a particular setting. The emphasis in this type of research is not on development of theory or on obtaining general scientific knowledge, but on increasing knowledge concerning subjects involved in the study. Put differently, action research places its emphasis on a problem here and now. This action is what is needed when it come to solving disturbing situations in the country. Rather than taking gambles in proffering solutions to problems facing the country The findings of the action research are to be put and evaluated in terms of local applicability, not universal validity. Action research seeks to answer the question: ‘what is ‘ In doing so the researcher attempts to describe events situations as they appear to him.

STEPS IN RESEARCHING

There are various steps that are involved in researching:

- 1) Identification and definition of the problems. At this step, there is need for a proper articulation and understanding of the problem of study before seeking solution to the problem.
- 2) Formulation of possible answers to the problem of study. The possible answers are referred to as hypotheses
- 3) Collection, collation/organization, analysis and interpretation of data. At this stage, data is tested to see which of the hypotheses correct.
- 4) Formulation of conclusions and generalizations. Having discovered the answer to the problem of study, the solution can now be extended to other similar problems given same conditions.

RESEARCH DESIGNING

According to Anukam (2010), research designing is the plan for a research project. Designing provides guidelines which direct the researcher towards solving the research problem and it may vary depending on the nature of the problem being studied. Also, consideration regarding limitations posed by time, money, and availability of data is an important factor in determining research design for a particular study. As it is a well known fact that, research design is a term used to describe a number of decisions which need to be taken regarding the collection of data before ever the data are collected.

However, these decisions must be systematic or scientific in nature. Thus, designing a research means preparing a mental plan or scheme of attack for solving a research problem in a systematic manner within the circumstances of the researcher.

Procedures for formulating Researcher Design.

In designing a research project, the researcher ought to seek satisfactory answers to such questions listed below in order to come up with a worthwhile research design.

1) What or who will form the population to be studied?

Before ever the researcher embark on his work, it is desirable that he must define and clearly identify the population he is going to study?

2) Having now identified the population, the researcher has to decide whether every member of the population needs to be studied or only a sample of the members of the population. Usually the decision on this matter is influenced by the size of the population, limitations of the researcher in terms of time and energy, the level of proof aimed at the state of existing knowledge and so on.

3) Also, the researcher has to decide whether the subject would be studied in their natural or under simulated /experimental conditions.

4) Lastly, the researcher has to decide especially in experimental study which variables control.

According to Anukam (2010) the reason for this is simply that when the study is completed the researcher will want to attribute the results to the treatment or particular variable(s). To accomplish this with any confidence, all other possible explanations must be eliminated or their possibility must be minimized. He must thus control or hold constant all in fluencies except that which is under study, if for example the researcher's objective is to

evaluate the effectiveness of teaching behaviour in terms of student's learning outcome.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

THE STRUCTURAL- FUNCTIONALISM

The theory structural functionalism as a school of thought was championed by the man we call Emile Durkheim.

Structural – functionalism as a paradigm believes that the human society is likened to the human organism. That in essence means that as the human beings have various parts and that these parts work independently for the maintenance and continuity of the society. Also, it is believed that when there is problem in any part of the society it go a long way in causing abnormality in the rest of the parts. On the other hand, the human society is believed to have various parts which function independently for the maintenance of the whole.

In essence, researching to find out what a problem is all about, possible solution to the problem(s) is ideal to solving problems other than taking a gamble. For the fact that research is an integral part of the society, structural-functionalism therefore is considered most suitable for the study and therefore is favoured and gets the nod for this study.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

It is necessary to establish that researching to find out possible or best solution to problems before solving the problem is considered expedient. Nigeria as a country has come of age the time has come that when a problem is perceived, researching must be adopted in order to find possible or best possible solution to the problem.

It is necessary to establish that there are various scholars and experts that Nigeria is blessed with, therefore, time has come for us to get certain things right.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Having concluded this study, we make the following recommendations:

- 1) Nigeria should cultivate the habit of researching in order to find solutions to problems
- 2) The culture and tradition of researching should be inculcated into our people.

3) Allocation should be increased for researching if at all it has been started at all.

REFERENCES.

- Isaac.A. Anukam (2010) *Research Methodology and Seminars*, Ultimate Ultimate Publishing Company Limited
- Akuezuilo E.O (2018) *Science Teacher Effectiveness and Classroom Teaching Behaviour* Unpublished PHD Thesis
- Akuezuilo E.O (2020) *Research Methodology and Statistics for Beginning Research Students*, Awka. Christon printing and publishing Company
- Nduka G.C (2018) *A Guide to Research in Education and Social Science* Ogwashi-ukwu, Martin Industrial Press and Publishing co.
- Nwana O. C (2001) *Introduction to Educational Research*, Ibadan . Heinemann
- Obikeze Dan S (2000) *Methods of Data Analysis in the Social and Behavioural Sciences*, Enugu Auto- century publishing company ltd
- Obiaha N.E and Alaezi o (2015) *A Guide Manual for Educational Thesis and Dissertations*, Jos, Jos University press.