



**SOS POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION
M.A POLITICAL SCIENCE IV SEM
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (403)
UNIT-III**

**TOPIC NAME-FORMULATION OF RESEARCH
PROBLEM**

WHAT IS A RESEARCH PROBLEM?

- **A RESEARCH PROBLEM IS** A STATEMENT ABOUT AN AREA OF CONCERN, A CONDITION TO BE IMPROVED, A DIFFICULTY TO BE ELIMINATED, OR A TROUBLING QUESTION THAT EXISTS IN SCHOLARLY LITERATURE, IN THEORY, OR IN PRACTICE THAT POINTS TO THE NEED FOR MEANINGFUL UNDERSTANDING AND DELIBERATE INVESTIGATION. IN SOME SOCIAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINES THE RESEARCH PROBLEM IS TYPICALLY POSED IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION. A RESEARCH PROBLEM **DOES NOT** STATE HOW TO DO SOMETHING, OFFER A VAGUE OR BROAD PROPOSITION, OR PRESENT A VALUE QUESTION.
- **THE PURPOSE OF A PROBLEM STATEMENT IS TO:**
- **INTRODUCE THE READER TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TOPIC BEING STUDIED.** THE READER IS ORIENTED TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY AND THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS OR HYPOTHESES TO FOLLOW.
- **PLACES THE PROBLEM INTO A PARTICULAR CONTEXT** THAT DEFINES THE PARAMETERS OF WHAT IS TO BE INVESTIGATED.
- **PROVIDES 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.

HOW TO IDENTIFY A RESEARCH PROBLEM?

- AFTER CHOOSING A SPECIFIC TOPIC FOR YOUR ACADEMIC PAPER, YOU NEED TO STATE IT AS A CLEAR RESEARCH PROBLEM THAT IDENTIFIES ALL THE ISSUES THAT YOU'LL ADDRESS. IT'S NOT ALWAYS SIMPLE FOR STUDENTS TO FORMULATE IT. IN SOME FIELDS, THEY MAY END UP SPENDING A LOT OF TIME THINKING, EXPLORING, AND STUDYING BEFORE GETTING A CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT RESEARCH QUESTIONS TO ANSWER.
- SOME TOPICS ARE TOO BROAD TO GIVE A RESEARCHABLE ISSUE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU DECIDE TO STUDY CERTAIN SOCIAL ISSUES, LIKE CHILD POVERTY, REMEMBER THAT THEY DON'T PROVIDE ANY RESEARCHABLE QUESTION. THESE ARE VERY BROAD TO ADDRESS AND TAKE A LOT OF TIME AND RESOURCES TO BECOME UNFEASIBLE SO THAT YOUR STUDY WILL LACK ENOUGH FOCUS AND DEPTH

WHAT IS A STATEMENT OF A RESEARCH PROBLEM?

- AN ADEQUATE STATEMENT OF YOUR RESEARCH PROBLEM PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF YOUR ACADEMIC PAPER AND STUDY. IT'S POSSIBLE TO GENERATE A NUMBER OF RESEARCHABLE ISSUES FROM THE SAME SUBJECT BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY ISSUES THAT MAY ARISE OUT OF IT. YOUR STUDY SHOULD PURSUE ONLY ONE IN DETAIL.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

- FOR YOUR RESEARCH PROBLEM TO BE EFFECTIVE, MAKE SURE THAT IT HAS THESE BASIC CHARACTERISTICS:
- REFLECTING ON IMPORTANT ISSUES OR NEEDS;
- BASING ON FACTUAL EVIDENCE (IT'S NON-HYPOTHETICAL);
- BEING MANAGEABLE AND RELEVANT;
- SUGGESTING A TESTABLE AND MEANINGFUL HYPOTHESIS (AVOIDING USELESS ANSWERS)

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTING RESEARCH PROBLEM?

- PERSONAL INCLINATION
- RESOURCES AVAILABILITY
- RELATIVE IMPORTANCE.
- RESEARCHER KNOWLEDGE
- PRACTICALITY: PRACTICALITY IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SELECTION
- TIME-LINES OF THE PROBLEM
- DATA AVAILABILITY
- URGENCY
- FEASIBILITY
- AREA CULTURE

FORMULATING YOUR RESEARCH PROBLEM WITH EASE

- FORMULATING YOUR RESEARCH PROBLEM ENABLES YOU TO MAKE A PURPOSE OF YOUR STUDY CLEAR TO YOURSELF AND TARGET READERS. FOCUS YOUR PAPER ON PROVIDING RELEVANT DATA TO ADDRESS IT. A PROBLEM STATEMENT IS AN EFFECTIVE AND ESSENTIAL TOOL TO KEEP YOU ON TRACK WITH RESEARCH AND EVALUATE IT. HOW CAN YOU FORMULATE A POWERFUL RESEARCH PROBLEM? CONSIDER 5 WAYS TO FORMULATE THE RESEARCH PROBLEM:
 - SPECIFY YOUR RESEARCH OBJECTIVES;
 - REVIEW ITS CONTEXT OR ENVIRONMENT;
 - EXPLORE ITS NATURE;
 - DETERMINE VARIABLE RELATIONSHIPS;
 - ANTICIPATE THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES.

STRUCTURING YOUR RESEARCH PROBLEM

- LOOK AT SCIENTIFIC PAPERS TO NOTICE THEIR RESEARCH QUESTIONS BECAUSE THEY ARE CRUCIAL FOR DETERMINING THE QUALITY OF ANSWERS, METHODS, AND FINDINGS. QUANTITATIVE DESIGNS USE DEDUCTIVE REASONING TO STATE A TESTABLE HYPOTHESIS. QUALITATIVE METHODS USE INDUCTIVE REASONING TO MAKE A STRONG STATEMENT OF YOUR FUTURE THESIS

DO YOU HAVE A GOOD RESEARCH PROBLEM?

- SIMPLE SELF-TEST TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOUR SCIENTIFIC PROJECT AND MAKE SURE THAT:
- YOUR QUESTION ALLOWS FOR A NUMBER OF POTENTIAL ANSWERS;
- IT'S TESTABLE, FLEXIBLE, AND OPEN-ENDED;
- YOU HAVE THE EVIDENCE NECESSARY TO ADDRESS IT;
- IT'S POSSIBLE TO BREAK IT INTO RESOLVABLE PARTS;
- IT'S PRECISE AND CLEAR;
- YOU DON'T USE ANY VAGUE TERMS THAT REQUIRE DEFINITIONS;
- IT'S SUITABLE FOR THE LENGTH OF YOUR PAPER;
- YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHY YOUR SOLUTIONS MATTER;
- YOU MADE PREMISES EXPLICIT.

WHY IS FORMULATION OF RESEARCH PROBLEM IMPORTANT?

- A RESEARCH PROBLEM IS THE PRELIMINARY STEP IN CONDUCTING A RESEARCH STUDY. A RESEARCH PROBLEM HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND THE RESEARCH PROCEDURE IN A BETTER MANNER. MOST BEGINNERS IN RESEARCH THINK THAT A RESEARCH PROBLEM IS EASY TO FORMULATE BUT IN REALITY IT IS NOT SO. A RESEARCH PROBLEM NEEDS GREAT THOUGHT ON THE PART OF THE RESEARCHER IN ORDER TO FORMULATE A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROBLEM. A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROBLEM IS ONE THAT CAN BE SOLVED USING SCIENTIFIC PROCEDURES.
- IN ACTUAL THE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM IS TO DETERMINE THE OBJECTIVE AND INTENTION OF THE RESEARCH, IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AIM OR OBJECTIVE YOU CANNOT DETERMINE THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY. A RESEARCH PROBLEM CAN HELP YOU IDENTIFY EACH AND EVERY STEP OF THE RESEARCH PROCESS: THE STUDY DESIGN, SAMPLING STRATEGY, RESEARCH INSTRUMENT AND

THE IMPORTANCE OF FORMULATING A RESEARCH PROBLEM

- THE RESEARCH PROBLEM SHOULD HAVE GREAT CLARITY SINCE THE RESEARCH PROCESS IN ITSELF GENERATES MORE QUESTIONS. IN THE ABSENCE OF A CLEAR AND WELL DEFINED RESEARCH PROBLEM THE RESEARCHER CAN BECOME CONFUSED. IN ADDITION THE RESEARCH QUESTION OR RESEARCH PROBLEM SHOULD HAVE TO BE INTERESTING SO THAT THE RESEARCHER BECOME WELL ENGAGED IN THE RESEARCH. THE PASSION OF THE RESEARCHER IN CONDUCTING THE RESEARCH MATTERS A LOT IN THE RESEARCH.
- THE RESEARCH PROBLEM SHOULD HAVE TO BE MANAGEABLE WITHIN YOUR RESOURCES, OTHERWISE IT WILL BECOME DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO UNDERTAKE IT. YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE TIME, ENERGY AND MONEY THAT YOU HAVE IN ORDER TO DESIGN A MANAGEABLE RESEARCH.

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF RESEARCH PROBLEM?

- THE FOLLOWING **SOURCES** ARE DISCUSSED IN SUCC (1) SPECIALIZATION, (2) INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM PURSUED, READING, (4) ANALYSIS OF AN AREA OF KNOWLEDGE, (5) CON EXISTING PRACTICES AND NEEDS, (6) REPETITION OR EXTENSI TIONS, AND (7) "OFFSHOOTS" OF STUDIES UNDER WAY.

TYPES OF RESEARCH PROBLEM,

- **THEORETICAL RESEARCH PROBLEM**
- **IT IS THE THEORETICAL EXPLANATION OF A RESEARCH PROBLEM. IT GIVES ONLY THEORY AND MEANING OF THE PROBLEM. IT DEFINES THE PROBLEM THEORETICALLY. THIS TYPE OF RESEARCH HAS NO NEED OF HYPOTHESIS AND VERIFICATION.**
- **FEATURES**
- **IT IS EXPLORATORY**
- **IT IS THEORETICAL IN NATURE**
- **IT PROVIDES BASIC MEANING**

TYPES OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

- **APPLIED RESEARCH PROBLEM**

- AN APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH PROBLEM IS A PRACTICAL USE OF THE THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE. IN THAT TYPE THE FIELD WORK AND VISITS TO THE PROBLEMATIC SITUATION IS NECESSARY. IT HAS THE DESIGN OF HYPOTHESIS AND VERIFICATION.

- **FEATURES**

- IT IS PRACTICAL IN NATURE
- IT HAS EXPLORATORY HYPOTHESIS
- IT WANTS THE VERIFICATION

TYPES OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

- **ACTION RESEARCH PROBLEM**

- ACTION RESEARCH PROBLEM IS THAT ONE FOR WHICH THE IMMEDIATE SOLUTION IS REQUIRED. IT HAS MILLIONS OF PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD THAT TYPE OF RESEARCH IS CONTINUOUS AND NEEDS QUICK SOLUTION IN EMERGENCY BASIS.

- **FEATURES**

- IT IS WELFARE ORIENTED.

- IT IS SERVICE ORIENTED.

- IT IS SENSITIVE AND IMMEDIATE DECISION REQUIRED FOR SOLUTION.

WHAT IS A RESEARCH QUESTION EXAMPLE?

- **RESEARCH QUESTION EXAMPLES.** THE EXACT FORM OF YOUR **QUESTION** WILL DEPEND ON ON THE LENGTH OF YOUR PROJECT, THE TYPE OF **RESEARCH**, THE TOPIC, AND THE **RESEARCH** PROBLEM. BUT ALL **RESEARCH QUESTIONS** SHOULD BE FOCUSED, SPECIFIC, APPROPRIATELY COMPLEX, AND RELEVANT TO A SOCIAL OR SCHOLARLY ISSUE.

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THANK YOU