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Master One

Research Methodology

Syllabus

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I. Content:

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1. Statement of the Problem

After selecting a problem, it should be stated carefully, Kerling (cited in Singh, *ibid*) has identified three criteria of a good problem statement. These mainly concern:

- A problem should be concerned with relation between two or more variables.
- It should be stated 'clearly and unambiguously in right form'.
- It should be amenable to testing (p.29).

2. Delimiting a Problem

Delimiting a problem is very important. A study should be delimited by the following aspects:

- A study should be delimited to certain variables that should be mentioned clearly in the problem.
- The study should be delimited to the area or level as primary, secondary, or university level.
- The study should be delimited to a size of sample considering time, energy, money; but, it should be representative.
- The study should be delimited to the research approach, [strategies], and tools.

3. Evaluating of a Problem

Before the research problem can be considered appropriate, several searching questions should be raised. It is only when these questions are answered in the affirmative, one can say that the problem can be effectively solved through the process of research. Such questions are those ones stated in below:

- Is the problem significant? Would the solution make any difference as far this study is concerned?
- Is the answer to the main question already available?
- Is the problem feasible? This simply means will the researcher be able to carry out the research? and will s/he be able to reach successful conclusions?
- Is the researcher skilful enough to collect and analyse data?
- Are pertinent data accessible?
- Does the researcher have enough time to carry out the research?

Does the researcher have courage and determination to overcome the difficulties s/he will encounter in his/her research? (ibid).