# Types of Research

1. **Descriptive research**: It includes surveys and fact – finding enquiries of different kinds. The major purpose of descriptive research is description of the state of affairs as it exists at present. The methods of research utilized in descriptive research are survey methods of all kinds, including comparative and correlational methods.
2. **Analytical Research**: It is a form of research where the researchers have to make do with the data and factual information available to them and interpret this information to undertake an acute evaluation of data. The researcher uses facts and information already available and analyse them to make a critical evaluation of the material.
3. **Applied Research**: It aims at finding a solution for an immediate problem facing a society or an individual/business organization. Research aimed at certain conclusions facing a concrete social or business problem is an example of applied research. Research to identify social, economic, or political trends that may affect a particular institution, marketing research, evaluation research are example of applied research. Thus, the central aim of applied research is to discover a solution for some pressing practical problems.
4. **Fundamental Research**: It is mainly concerned with generalization and with the formulation of a theory. Research concerning some natural phenomenon or relating to pure mathematics are example of fundamental research. Fundamental research is directed towards finding information that has a broad base of application and thus, adds to the already existing organized body of scientific knowledge.
5. **Quantitative Research**: Quantitative Research is based on the quantitative measurements of some characteristics. It is applicable to phenomena that can be expressed in terms of quantities. This form of research is number based and it lies under the two main research types. It makes use of the tables, data and graphs to reach a conclusion. The outcome generated from this research are measurable and can be repeated unlike the outcomes of qualitative research.
6. **Qualitative Research**: It is concerned with qualitative phenomenon; it dives into the “why” alongside the “what” for instance when we are interested in investigating the reasons for human behaviour about why people think or do certain things we conduct ‘motivation research’. It uses techniques such as in-depth interview, word association tests, sentence completion tests, Likert test and similar other projective techniques. Qualitative research is especially important in the behavioural sciences where the aim is to discover the underlying motives of human behaviour.
7. **Conceptual Research**: This research is related to an abstract idea or a theory. It is adopted by thinkers and philosophers with the aim of developing a new concept or to re-examine the existing concept. This methodology has often been adopted by famous philosophers like Aristotle, Copernicus, Einstein & Newton for developing new theories and insights regarding the working of the world and for examining the existing ones from a different perspective. The concepts were setup by philosophers to observe their environment and to sort, study and summarise the information available.
8. **Empirical Research**: This research method focuses solely on aspects like observation and experience, without focusing on the theory or system. It is data-based research, coming up with conclusions which are capable of being verified by observation or experiments. Empirical Research is mainly undertaken to determine proof that certain variable are affecting the others in a particular way.
   * This type of research can also be termed as experimental research. In such a research it is necessary to get facts first hand, at their source, and actively to go about doing certain things to stimulate the production of desired information.
   * In this research a hypothesis is generated and then a path is undertaken to confirm or invalidate this hypothesis. Empirical research is appropriate when proof is sought that certain variables affect other variables in some way.

## Some other types of research:

1. From the perspective of time.
   1. **One time research**: The research is restricted to a single time period.
   2. **Longitudinal research**: The research is executed over multiple time periods.
2. From the perspective of process:
   1. **Exploratory Research**: This is research that is more focused on establishing hypothesis than on deriving results. This form of research focuses on understanding the prevailing issue but it doesn’t really offer defining results.
   2. **Formalized Research**: This is research that has a solid structure and which also has specific hypothesis for testing.
3. From the perspective of Results:
   1. **Conclusion oriented research**: In this form of research the researcher can select an issue redesign the enquiry as he continues and visualize it as per his requirements.
   2. **Decision oriented research**: This research depends on the requirement of the decision maker and offer less freedom to the researcher to conduct it as he pleases.