

HYPOTHESIS

⇒ In conducting research, after identification of the problem, the researcher proceeds by developing a tentative answer of the problem which is called hypothesis.

⇒ The word hypothesis is derived from the Greek word - 'hypotithenai' meaning 'to suppose'.

Different definitions of hypothesis

⇒ Mcguigan - "A testable statement of a potential relationship between two or more variables, i.e. advance as potential solution to the problem."

⇒ Lundberg - "It is a tentative or systematic generalization, the validity of which remains to be tested."

⇒ Kerlinger - "It is a causal relationship between two or more variables."

⇒ Webster - "Hypothesis is a guess made by the researcher which either solves the problem or guides him in further investigation."

⇒ In the light of the above definitions we can say that hypothesis is a relationship between two or more variables, in order to test them and to give a proper guidance to ^{the} research activity for further explanation.

- ⇒ Hypothesis is what the researchers predict, the relationship between two or more variables, but it involves more than a guess.
- Most of the time, hypothesis begins with a question which is then explored through background research. It is only at this point that researchers begin to develop a testable hypothesis.
- ⇒ A hypothesis does not have to be correct. While the hypothesis predicts what the researchers expect to see, the goal of the research is to determine whether this guess is right or wrong.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

Some of these characteristics are enumerated below :

- (i) Hypothesis should be clear and precise. If the hypothesis is not clear and precise, the inferences drawn on its basis cannot be taken as reliable.
- (ii) Hypothesis should be capable of being tested. In a swamp of untestable hypothesis, many a time the research programmes have bogged down. Some prior study may be done by researcher in order to make hypothesis a testable one. A hypothesis is testable if other deductions can be made from it which, in turn, can be confirmed or disapproved by observation.
- (iii) Hypothesis should state relationship between variables, if it happens to be a relational hypothesis.
- (iv) Hypothesis should be limited in scope and must be specific. A researcher must remember that narrower hypotheses are generally more testable and he should be able to develop such hypotheses.
- (v) Hypothesis should be stated as far as possible in most simple terms so that same is easily understandable by all concerned. But one must remember that simplicity of hypothesis has nothing to do with its significance.
- (vi) Hypothesis should be consistent with most known facts i.e.,

it must be consistent with a substantial body of established facts. In other words, it should be one which judges : accept as being the most likely.

(vii) Hypothesis should be amenable to testing within a reasonable time. One should not use even an excellent hypothesis, if the same cannot be tested in reasonable time for one cannot spend a life-time collecting data to test it.

(viii) Hypothesis must explain the facts that give rise to the need for explanation. This means that by using the hypothesis plus other known and accepted generalizations, one should be able to deduce the original problem condition. Thus hypothesis must actually explain what it claims to explain; it should have empirical reference.

HYPOTHESIS SHOULD BE

- Conceptually clear
- Testable
- Clear, definite and stated in a simple manner.
- Specific, brief and to the point.
- Relate to the existing body or theory.
- Capable of verification
- Operationizable