Good Research

Name

Institutional Affiliation

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Introduction

Markedly, research is a process that entails specific means, approaches, and tools that are used to gather and analyse data, before providing certain inferences. Fondermann and van der Togt (2017) explained that there are different natures of outcomes of an inquiry. Precisely, exploration could mean first or original depiction of something that is new. A research may also be descriptive to represent either a given behavior or domain, while explanatory searches conduct systematic clarification of previous investigations and how they arose. Predictive inquiries provide a methodical account of the doings that will occur in the future. Further, Mårtensson, et al. (2016) added that normative research entails statement of interventions that are required to attain desired outcomes despite someone can see that searches are different in their nature. However, it should be noted that good explores share common factors. In essence, there are different sections and requisitions of a study that qualify it to become a good inquiry for either educational or other purposes. Hostetler (2005) and Bridges (2017) explained that an investigation is mainly composed of the aims, problem statement, literature review, methodology, results and analysis, discussions, and conclusions. Therefore, the parts may be modified to suit either the nature of the study or the purpose of the investigator.

The brief overview of a research provides the insight for understanding the attributes of a good paper. On that note, this study examines the qualities of an investigation by using critical and philosophical notions to understand the aim of this write-up. Furthermore, the report enumerates the principles of a good inquiry before establishing the criteria for determining an excellent investigation. Finally, the document concludes the main findings of the study and provides the rationale. Empirically, this paper is essential for investigators, students, teachers,

business organizations, and other entities in conducting studies. Thus, the main aim of adhering

to the guidelines of a superior research is to ensure that the investigator uses the right means,

approaches, and tools to gather and analyze data that adds new knowledge to the current one.

<div align="center">**Qualities and Principles of a Good Research**</div>

Quality of a first-class study is measured in its content. Fondermann and van der Togt

(2017) mentioned that the issue of an excellent research in an educational context has triggered

substantial debate, which is often viewed in terms of a methodological question as opposed to

ethics. The authors were quick to assert that a high-quality investigation is connected with sound

procedures, well-stated purpose, and results. Thus, the ultimate goal of any study should be to

improve the well-being of people. According to them, a good investigation should develop a

purpose and clearly delineate the aims. Most importantly, the authors added that a study must be

grounded on a specific theoretical framework and literature. The intrinsic idea is that education

investigators must build on what already exists, but also add new knowledge and understanding.

In some instances, researchers are meant to provide directions and recommendations for future

studies. According to the argument by Hostetler (2005), an investigator must enrich the purpose

that either directly or indirectly addresses a problem which affects the world. For that reason, it is

imperative for the examiners to identify a dilemma and focus on how to provide solutions to it so

as to improve the well-being of the mankind. Mårtensson et al. (2016) and Pring (2014) further

mentioned that the problem under investigation and the intention should also show the constructs

and variables to be examined. As a matter of fact, Fondermann and van der Togt (2017) defined

a research study as the process that involves systematic empirical assessment and investigation

of either a particular issue or topic. Consequently, the main purpose of the investigation should

be to contribute new knowledge concerning either the specific topic or problems.

High-quality research offers solutions to a problem by providing answers to focused, clear, complex, but concise study questions. The statement is consistent with the claim by Hull (1968) that a good investigation must develop a systematic plan that helps the researcher to gather data so as to offer results to specific inquiries. Markedly, the questions under study must formulate issues that clearly show the point of the research. Hostetler (2005) also stated that after gathering the required facts, an investigator has to provide useful and understandable results. That is, the findings of a research are used to make conclusions and decisions on the problem affecting either people or the society at large. The philosophical notion presupposes that the questions under investigation to guide an overall research should be responsive to a given literature review. Fondermann and van der Togt (2017) explained that the aim of having a literature review is to allow the searcher to have a deeper understanding of either the topic or dilemma through learning from the previous studies, related subjects, methods, and findings. It is apparent that no investigator can stand alone without borrowing ideas and concepts from other analyses.

In fact, peculiar matters that do not relate to other works of literature are often either intricate or even impossible to conduct. It is made clear by Mårtensson et al. (2016) that a detailed assessment of other publications allows a researcher to identify the gap and measure whether the current study is consistent with what other authors have done. Moreover, the journals to be used in a research must not only be relevant to the subject, but should also have been written by credible authors (Popper, 1959). In essence, criticising the pieces of literature provides the basis for adding new knowledge to the world. Most importantly, it is necessary for an educational researcher to use the most relevant and credible sources of information, especially professional journals. In addition to showing new findings, a study should ensure that it fills the

existing knowledge gap (Grajales & Gonzalez, 2008). The materials accessed should also be

recent, updated, written by renowned authors, and relate to the topic of the study. Therefore, the

investigator is to intuitively synthesize and organize the sources including the papers that have

the contrary opinions to the hypothesis of a particular study.

The other essential issue is how the data is collected. Based on different philosophical

frameworks, a research method could be qualitative, quantitative, or mixed. However, there are

various debates on the merits and demerits of the three methods, which are beyond the scope of

this paper. Evidently, Ponterotto (2005) stated that any exploration methodology should be

appropriate to the study question. For example, if the research concerns the views and

perceptions of the people, it is necessary to use a more qualitative approach using unstructured

interviews. However, if the investigation purports either to identify the rate or scale of a given

need or problem, it is appropriate to use a more quantitative approach. Further, Kothari (2005)

highlighted that in the contemporary era, many researchers prefer to combine the two

advancements so as to enhance complements of the qualities. The idea is to ensure that the

method chosen helps in collecting the right data in an appropriate manner to allow the study to

understand the nature of the dilemma. Hostetler (2005) also held the opinion that a superior

research should be conducted without any form of bias. Overall, preconceptions result due to

either unfair or unfavorable focus on a given point of view or subjects. Consequently, the

researcher should not influence the collection of the data. Nonetheless, if a certain level of bias

has to be tolerated, it is essential to address the issue systematically and explicitly. Fondermann

and van der Togt (2017) noted that various ethical and professional principles such as informed

consent, voluntarism, confidentiality, and privacy should be adhered to when recruiting and

engaging the research participants. In general, an excellent study in education is well-organized,

articulated, and correctly gathers data to answer clear and concise research questions, with the

ultimate goal of either providing solutions or adding new knowledge.

Criteria for Determining a Good Research

To establish the criteria for determining a good investigation, it is important to provide

the main terms entailed in a conceptual model of a research. Table 1 below provides the

terms/criteria that must be furnished in a good study, definitions, and conditions required.

Table 1: The criteria for determining a good research

Term	Definition and Measurement
Actor	Is the person initiating and conducting the conscious action of researching study? An investigator must be present for a good research to happen.
Beneficial	The positive impacts to the target population. A good study must be valuable by either adding new knowledge or providing answers to the research questions.
Scientific Method	The process conducted by the actor. That is, a good research must have a well-defined and justifiable method of collecting data.
Context	It is either the intellectual or environmental setting where a research is conducted. Notably, a good investigation is provided when the actor understands the cultural, social, political,

	geographical, and environmental factors of the research context.
Existing Knowledge	It is either the current or previous knowledge about the study topic and background. A high-quality study should be based on the works of other researchers so as to find the information gap and measure the consistency of the current research to the previous ones.
Person	A human being. The ultimate goal of a good study is to improve the well-being of people.
Research Questions	They are the doubts that guide the overall research. Markedly, the investigator must develop specific, concise, and clear study questions which are answered after data collection and analysis are presented.
Rules of Description	Guidelines for depicted procedures. That is, a superior research should offer rules that describe the intentions and results of the inquiries, scientific methods, context, and existing facts among others.
Sources	The sources could be accessed from databases, media, or documents that include the existing knowledge. A good research requires well-

	established and systematic method of identifying and using the references.
Target Group	The target group should be well-defined and described and includes individuals, organizations, society, or entities that benefit from the new knowledge.

Adapted from Fraenkel, 2014; Mårtensson et al., 2016; Guba & Lincoln, 1994; Howell, 2013;
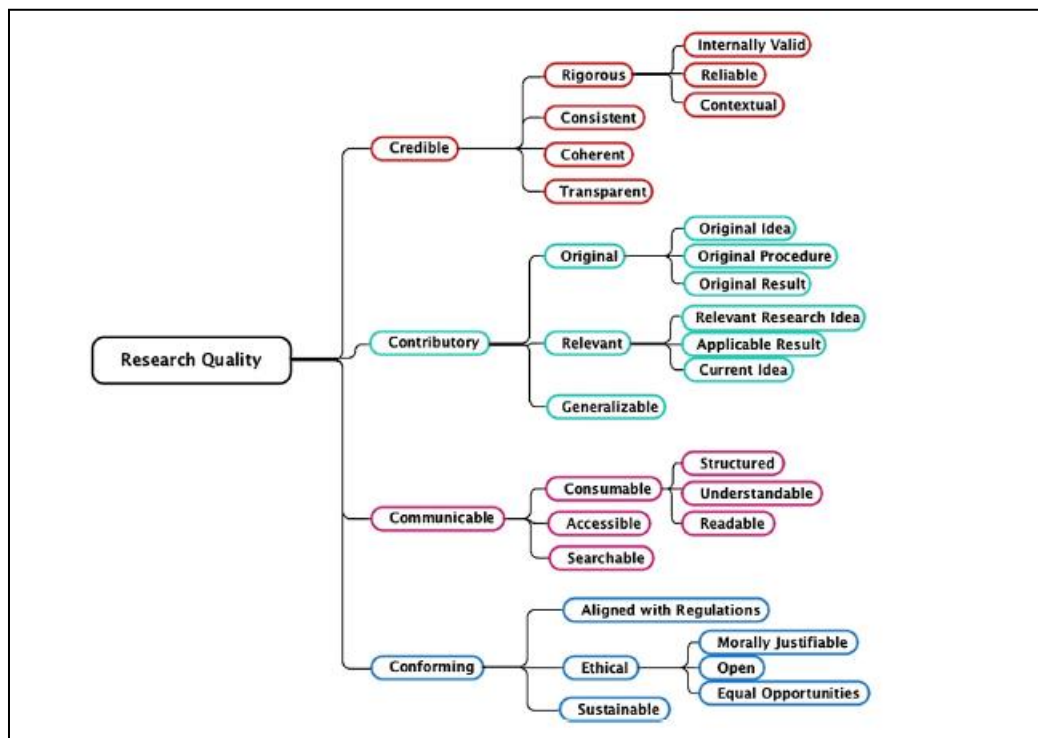
AERA, 2010.

Figure 1: The Conceptual hierarchy of determining quality of a research

Source: Hostetler, 2005; Fraenkel, 2014; Bridgman, 1927

Conclusion and Rationale

Researches can be classified using different parameters; for example, based on the nature

of the outcomes, a study could be considered as normative, explanatory, applied, exploratory, or

descriptive amongst others. Similarly, according to the methodology and philosophical discourses, an investigation could be qualitative, quantitative, or mixed. Nonetheless, it is made clear that pieces of a good research share common factors. For example, they have well-stated topics, clearly highlighted problem, understandable and concise research questions, and are based on the existing knowledge. The method of data collection and analysis are also well-chosen and justified. Essentially, the aim of a high-quality research is to add new information to the world. Further, the criteria for determining a good exploration requires the understanding of the actors, beneficiaries, scientific methods, context, current knowledge, and the target group among others. Overall, this paper provides guidelines for education researchers, teachers, students, business researchers, policy makers, philosophers, and other entities to conduct superior studies. The main aim is to offer working solutions that will improve well-being of people.

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