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Study material for M.P.Ed Students

FORMULATION AND SELECTION OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

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Formulation and selection of problem for research is itself a great problem. Once the gap in existing knowledge becomes visible, research problem crystallizes itself. There are no short cuts in science, nor is there any research which is a more rigid and formalized way of carrying out the scientific method. Once the research problem has been formulated, the researcher is all set to take on to further procedures without much difficulties. It requires a good mental exercise to locate the gap in knowledge and formulate a workable problem. It may not be difficult to find problem suitable to one's aptitude, interest and intellectual calibre. It needs courage to take challenging research problems. It needs high degree of personal interest which works as a motivational force. Physical educationists include themselves in research because it interests them to do so. Areas in physical education is very vast so every one can get some problem of their interest to do research.

While selecting the problem, the researcher has to consider some of the points such as :-

- 1) Whether the topic is significant in terms of its value to the profession ?
- 2) Whether the problem is actually the need of the hour ?
- 3) Whether solution of the problem has some practical gain ?
- 4) Whether the investigation within the intellectual capacity and capability ?
- 5) Whether the investigation is within the time requirement ?

WHAT IS A PROBLEM :

Research problem is a matter difficult for settlement or solution a question or puzzle propounded for solution. (Oxford dictionary).

The problem is a question, a felt need an issue, which needs to be resolved, a difficulty.

It is the first step for the discovery of new facts by following certain research procedure. Problems are infinite but it is very difficult to locate them for investigation. The selection of a good research problem is considered as a discovery in itself.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM ::

The identification of a problem a research problem is a difficult but an important phase of the entire research process. It requires a great deal of time, energy and logical thinking on the part of the researcher. The following suggestions are designed to provide direction in a search for a research problem.

1) PERSONAL EXPERIENCE ::

Personal experience of the investigation in the field of physical education is the main source for identifying suitable atmosphere/environment.

2) SYSTEMATICALLY RECORD UNSOLVED PROBLEMS ::

Researchers professional reading may point out several unsolved problems that could be taken as research topic, class discussions and critical thinking will provide many topics for research.

3) ANALYSE LITERATURE IN AN AREA OR SUBJECT FIELD :

An analysis of the literature in a particular field is a most important source of research problem. Analyse the recommendations suggested in a dissertation to locate and read a review paper, review journals, research journals, term papers, or a recent text book.

4) CONSIDER COLLOBORATION OF FORMER STUDIES::

When the researcher reads the thesis already completed he may come across the recommendation heading from that he would be able to select some topic.

e.g., If a study with a topic study of personality of women athletes and non athletes has been completed, similar study on men athletes and non-athletes could be undertaken by the new investigator.

5) EXAMINE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES ::

Controversy may exit concerning various practices in physical education and sports controversy, which exists in warming up, intake of glucose, professionalism, and drug in sports thus the research scholar may face a multidimensional problem.

6) DISCUSSION ::

Discussion in the classroom, with friends and experts, discussions in conferences and seminars will suggest many new problems. Consultation with

faculty members and fellow research scholars also provide many research problem.

7) DISCOVER THE INTERESTS OF ASSOCIATION, CLUBS AND SOCIETY ::

Frequently various clubs and associations may express interest in expanding specific kinds of research.

8) TECHNICAL CHANGES ::

Technical changes and curricular developments are constantly bringing forth new problems and new opportunities for research.

9) LIBRARY SOURCES ::

Various library sources such as books, encyclopedias, journals, subject, specific periodicals, autobiographies, official reports, anthologies, etc. provides idea for new problem.

10) INTEREST OF THE RESEARCH WORKER ::

It should help to overcome obstacle and meet physical educational professionals, coaches and administrator.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH PROBLEM ::

For any worthwhile study in any field research scholar needs reference material. The sources of materials are two types i.e. (i) Primary (ii) Secondary.

(1) PRIMARY SOURCES ::

These are obtained from the place of origin or from beginning. Their kinds are as given below :-

1) PERIODICALS ::

This type of literature is found in journals like –

- (i) Research Quarterly.
- (ii) Journals of sports medicine.
- (iii) Journal of applied sports Science.
- (iv) British journal of physical education and sports.

2) BOOKS ::

It provides information of great thinkers, Critics, Philosopher their ideas and theories.

3) MONOGRAPHS ::

It includes written information on a single topic or single subject.

4) YEAR BOOKS ::

It has information about the papers of eminent scholars, research workers etc.

5) GRADUATE AND DOCTORAL LEVEL THESIS ::

Thesis and dissertation are the reports of the research work. These are to be maintained thesis is considered for post graduate level research Ph. D. and M. Phil etc. Dissertation is at Master Degree level research work.

6) MEMORIES ::

Personal auto-biographies, life history at eminent personality, personal letters etc.

7) OFFICIAL PUBLISHED MATERIALS ::

Such as information about health, environment, Pollution, Population, Education, Employment and Crimes etc.

(2) SECONDARY SOURCES ::

Collection of the information which have been already reported by some individuals other than the researcher. These can be available in the following forms :-

- (i) Encyclopedia (Health, Physical Education, and Recreation)
- (ii) Abstract of Sports Medicine. e.g. Injuries and Rehabilitation.
- (iii) Bibliographical references.
- (iv) Directories.

CRITERIA IN SELECTING THE RESEARCH PROBLEM ::

Certain external and personal criteria is to be considered in the selection of research problem. External Criteria have to do with such matters as novelty and importance for the field, availability of data, method and institutional or administrative co-operation.

Personal criteria involved is such consideration as interest training cost and time etc.

A number of criteria in the form of conditions might be listed for the guidance in the selection of research problem.

(1) EXTERNAL CRITERIA ::

These can be given in a following form :-

- (i) NOVELTY :-

The research problem should be sufficiently original and new, one. The investigator should not select a problem until he is sure. That is really a new problem which has never before investigated successfully.

(ii) SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM :-

While selecting problem the researcher has to see whether the topic is significant to the professional and useful to the society. Every problem undertaken for investigation must offer something of practical value to physical education, the coaches and the athletes.

(iii) AVAILABILITY OF DATA :-

Availability of data is another most important factor affecting selection of problem for example if a research worker has taken a study with a topic. Personality traits of Indian Kabaddi players he should be able to get data from Indian Kabaddi players, otherwise there is no meaning in selecting this topic.

(iv) AVAILABILITY OF TECHNIQUES AND APPARATUS :-

One should have the appropriate apparatus or instrument and technique to conduct the research study. If the researcher has taken up a study with the topic. A comparative study of blood pressure between hockey and football players, the researcher should have sphygomanometer to measure the blood pressure. He also should know how to use the apparatus.

(v) AVAILABILITY OF CO-OPERATION :-

Research may require co-operation from various authorities, institutions and individuals. Investigator must make sure that necessary permission and co-operation will be available regarding research before selecting the research problem.

(vi) AIM AND LEVEL OF RESEARCH :-

The aim of research also influences the selection of the problem, the nature and scope of the study will be determined. In the light of the levels like, Master degree, M. Phil degree and Ph.D.

(2) PERSONAL CRITERIA ::

The researcher should have an unique drive to an authentic research work.

(i) INTEREST TOWARDS THE PROBLEM :-

The Problem should be interesting for the investigator himself. If investigator is not interested in it, he will not be able to face and overcome the obstacles which come at every step in research.

(ii) RESEARCHERS COMPETENCE AND KNOWLEDGE :-

Problem selected for investigation should be within the intellectual capacity and capability of the student if the researcher does not have any knowledge about physiology, he should not select a topic from the area.

(iii) COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE :-

The researcher should have courage and determination to carry out the study inspite of the difficulties that may be involved.

(iv) TIME AND FINANCIAL FACTOR :-

The problem selected should be one that can be studied and completed in the allotted time. The researcher most considers carefully his own financial resources to carry out the study.

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