

## Research Methods in SHS

At the end of This lecture you are going to know :

- **How is it important to have methodology in SHS?**
- What are the main methods used in SHS ,

### Reminder:

- SHS research is a **scientific undertaking** which by means of **logical methods** , aim to discover new facts or old facts and to analyze their 1 sequences , 2 interrelationships , 3 casual explanations and 4 natural laws which govern them.
- It applies **scientific methods to social inquiry on** human beings and their life contents.
- SHS scientists use different methodologies ; **description , experiential methods , statistics and historical methods.**
- SHS methodology starts with an **assumption** and is gradually **filled by a series of observations and experiences.**
- The **data collection** methods are often done by a variety of techniques like field observations, interviews , and focus group discussions.

### Scientific method in SHS

Scientific method is important in SHS as in physical or natural sciences. SHS scientists must :

- Observe carefully,
- Classify,
- Analyse their facts ,
- Make generalizations,
- And attempt to develop and test hypothesis to explain these generalizations

### Why SHS problems are difficult?

SHS Problems are often difficult than that of natural sciences because :

- Facts about it , may be unique , difficult to explain and interpret.
- Generalizations and Laws in SHS are likely to be less definite and certain than those in natural ones .

SHS Scientists use the following approach :

- Observe,
- Define the problem,
- Review the literature ( become familiar with others)
- Observe some more,
- Develop a theoretical framework,
- Formulate a hypothesis « Make a statement predicting the result » ,
- Choose the research design,
- Collect the necessary data,
- Analyse the result ( s),
- Draw conclusion

### **Notice**

Each science in SHS has its **own sophisticated methods of inquiry** through which the scientist is **enabled to probe the phenomena** .

A good scientist in SHS generally **takes a while and see position about claims until they are tested and retested.**



**The main objectives of the SHS process are :**

1. To discover new facts
2. To Verify and test old facts
3. To understand human behavior
4. To know connection between human activities and natural laws
5. To develop new scientific tools concepts and theories –in order to extend the area of knowledge
6. To understand the functioning of the society.
7. To study individual behavior and social action.
8. To evaluate social problems ,their effects, solution
9. To explore social reality

**Conclusion :**

We can conclude that the research process is divided into the following steps:

1. *Selection of Problem*
2. *Review of Literature*
3. *Formulating Hypothesis/Objectives*
4. *Preparing a Research Design*
5. *Data Collection*
6. *Analysis of Data*
7. *Conclusions/Suggestions*
8. *Research Report*

