

Objectivity

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- Objectivity is scientific observation, collection and analysis of data without any bias or prejudice.
- In an objective study, the subject matter is observed and described as it is, without any exaggeration.
- Reasoning and intellect are more important than belief and faith in an objective study.

Definition of objectivity

- Lowell J. Carr : “Objectivity of truth means that the phenomenal world is a reality independent of the beliefs, hopes or fears of any individual all of which we find out not by intuition and speculation but by actual observation.”
- Green: “Objectivity is the willingness and ability to examine evidence dispassionately.”

- Thus in objective study the phenomenon are studied in their actual form without any influence of personal beliefs, expectations and fears. Also, objectivity is the willingness to study relevant phenomena rationally , factually.

To ensure objectivity in research it is important that the data collected is properly analysed and interpreted. Following steps should be taken before actual analysis and interpretation of data.

- Editing of accumulated facts: The questionnaires and schedules used in social research should be carefully examined and edited so that gaps may be fulfilled and mistakes are corrected.
- Verification of secondary data: It involves verification of reliability, adequacy and sufficiency. Reliability of persons, groups, or community from which information is gathered should be checked.

- **Classification of Data:** The data should be scientifically classified in order to bring out the finding clearly and smoothly.
- **Symbolization:** In order to simplify analysis the classified facts are symbolised. In this process the replies are indicated by means of signs or symbols. These symbols may be numerical, alphabetical, mathematical, geometrical or statistical. It saves time and energy.

- **Tabulation of facts:** After editing, classification and symbolisation the facts must be tabulated. It means organisation of facts in tables and charts.

Main Steps in Analysis and Interpretation

Objectivity in social research can be ensured by these steps:

- ❖ Measurement of facts: It is important as only objective data can be verified and re-verified.
- ❖ Formation of the Outline of Analysis: In order to achieve facility and purity in a particular function it is useful to draw an outline of analysis.
- ❖ Classification of data: Suitable classification of data facilitates easy comparison and better understanding of conclusions.

- Formation of concepts: Concept is expression of phenomena in one or more terms. When phenomena are conceptualised, they may be easily compared and it is possible to analyse their causes and nature.
- Comparison and Interpretation of facts: Comparative study is important in the process of making the concept scientific and definite.
- Formation of principles: Principles are the brief and well defined conclusions achieved through analysis and interpretation.

References

- Sociological Methods and Techniques by Rajendra k. Sharma