

# NCERT MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS CLASS – 11

## SOCIOLOGY CHAPTER- 5 DOING SOCIOLOGY: RESEARCH METHOD

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### **Question 1.**

#### **What is objectivity?**

#### **Answer:**

The ability to carry out an investigation and to collect data without personal interpretation or bias to influence the process. If we have to rely on a subjective interpretation of an event (such as ‘Was that an act of aggression or of playfulness?’), we may find it difficult to maintain our objectivity. Psychologists may choose either to concentrate on actions which are unquestionably relating to the behaviour of interest (stabbing someone in the back, for example, could hardly be interpreted as playfulness) or relying on the shared agreement of more than one observer of the same event (inter-observer reliability).

### **Question 2.**

#### **What is observation?**

#### **Answer:**

This term is used to describe any situation where an observer records behaviour that is exhibited by a participant. The term ‘observation’ may be used as a technique for gathering data (i.e. we observe somebody doing something) or as the design of a study. It leads to such a variety of usage. To give a precise definition of the term ‘observation’ means contrasting it with an experimental study. In an observation there is no manipulation of an independent variable. There are different types of study that would be classified as ‘observational’ under this definition.

### **Question 3.**

#### **What is reliability?**

#### **Answer:**

If a finding is repeated, it is described as being reliable. Within the general meaning of the term, it is also used more specifically within psychological assessment and research. For a research finding to be reliable, it must be shown to exist on successive investigations under the same condition (replication).

For a psychometric assessment to be reliable, it should have both internal and external reliability. Answers to a questionnaire or inventory may be checked to see if respondents answer all questions in the same way or if they contradict themselves. This is a measure of internal reliability. Responses may also be checked over a period of time to see if there is stability of measurement over times. If respondent gives the same responses or obtains the same scores consistently over time, then the measure is said to have external reliability.

#### **Question 4.**

#### **Discuss the research process in sociology.**

#### **Answer:**

##### Steps in Research

1. Selection of a specific problem (relevant, current): The problem should have sociological significance. Define and formulate the problem. Reviving literature/secondary research-use different sources e.g. Internet, magazine together information about the problem (reliable sources). Find out information about a specific aspect of the problem. This helps to formulate a conceptual framework. Now the path for the research is paved. Formulating a hypothesis. Assumption/tentative, conclusion/opinion of the researcher on certain aspects of the problem – may/may not be true.

##### 2. Measurement – [Quantitative and Qualitative]:

By assigning values to variables that can be measured by features, attributes etc. It means research from abstract to concrete and further to a conclusion. It involves validity and reliability-reliable sources and measuring.

What do you want to measure objectively? When the researcher gets the same result, if he conducts a research in the same way as another researcher in the same circumstances by using quantitative methods like statistics and analysis of data.

3. Choosing a research design/technique: Survey is the best research technique. It is a method used to gather information about a particular issue/problem and also finding out the views of people and/or interests of people. It is the most common/ effective method of research. It is usually quantitative.

- Sample survey: A small audience represents the population. These are selected from an area and they represent the whole area.
- Random survey: It is done asking people randomly (people selected at random) and they represent the population.

In a survey, there are three most common ways:

- Question uestionnaire
- Interview
- Case study

4. Collection of Data: After the questionnaire is formed, it is distributed and data is collected from respondents.

Depending upon the problem, the respondents are selected.

Keep in mind the age/gender/class and the kind of questions when distributing the questionnaire.

##### 5. Analysis and interpretation of Data:

After the data is collected the whole information is analysed and interpreted. Analysis is always in percentages specially for close ended questions (choices).

eg. Yes – 75% No – 15 %

6. Evaluation: Conclusion of the whole analysis and the interpretation of the data.  
Summary of all the questionnaires/hypothesis Includes

1. Summary
2. Whether your hypothesis has been proved or not.
3. Problems the researcher faces while doing the research such as :
  - Dishonesty
  - No interest
  - Incomplete
  - Stupid answers
  - No time
  - Shyness
  - If someone was offended by a certain question etc.
  - More serious problems.

Besides survey, other methods of collecting data can be used:

- Ethnography-Field work, stay with population for months and find out the stuff.
- Archives-historical facts.
- Do commentary (make a movie about it).

### **Question 5.**

**What is questionnaire? Discuss advantages and disadvantages.**

**Answer:**

Questionnaire:

Set of questions prepared by the investigator and given to the respondent with option like yes, no, mock.

A method of collecting data systematically by asking questions which are answered by the respondent.

Types of Question:

1. Close Ended: Fixed choices are given and you have to tick one. MCQuestions, Yes/No/ May be. An analysis is easier.
  2. Easier to understand as it is based on facts. Easier for respondent to answer.
  3. Objective.
  4. Open Ended.
  5. Opinion of respondent is asked. Subjective analysis is difficult as you will get different answers for the same question. It gives more detailed information.
  6. A questionnaire should be a combination of these with more close ended questions to make analysis easier. This will give us percentage of choice and reasons for that choice.
- Question uestions should not be lengthy.
  - Question uestions should be short/precise and to the point.
  - Use simple language and convey the same meaning to everyone.
  - Question uestions should be sensitive to the audience.

- Question uestions should not be too personal/ more general.
- No G.K. questions like who is the prime minister.

### Advantages

- You can cover a large area in limited time period and large number of people.
- Objective, subjectivity doesn't enter into it.
- Comparatively less expensive.
- Investigator's presence is not required.
- No bias as there is no face to face interaction.
- Many questions can be covered.
- No hesitation for the respondent.

### Disadvantages

- Many a time questionnaires are not taken seriously.
- Might be incorrectly filled out.
- False identity.
- You may not get it back.
- Could be incomplete.
- Can't clarify doubts.
- Illiterate people can't answer.

### Question 6.

**What is an interview? Discuss its advantages and disadvantages. (HOTS)**

#### **Answer:**

In interview, a set of questions are asked face to face by the interviewer. Interview may be structured or unstructured. The success of interview depends on the following factors:

- Interviewer must be framed, sensitive, confident and qualified.
- Have some background of Interviewee.
- Should be well prepared for the discussion.
- Should be in control.
- Patient not pushy.
- Just guide the interviewee.
- Be as objective as possible.
- Has to have alternative questions.
- Should not deviate from the topic chosen.
- Question uestions showed always go from easy to difficult.

### Advantages

- Facial expressions can give away emotions to a certain extent. Almost all questions are answered.
- No false identity.
- Question uestions are taken seriously.
- Universally acceptable.

## Disadvantages

- Interviews are time consuming
- Expensive
- There is bias and subjectivity.

How can a researcher avoid bias and error?

- Interviewer should not get involved emotionally.
- Not forget the objective of the interview.
- Not deviate from what he /she has to find out.

## Question 7.

**What is observation? Discuss its types.**

**Answer:**

Observation: It refers to systematically attending, recording and processing information through direct participation and observation of the group, tribe or community which is included in the study. •

- There is use of vision for collection of data.
- Collection of data by watching people's behaviour without actually interfering with it.
- Noting down the data as it happens with regard to the cause, phenomenon and effect.

Observation – as a sociological research:

- Specific, valid, reliable, accountable, precise
- Precise and no extra details
- Objectivity.
- Researcher's opinion should not be expressed.
- Validity is important. What you are observing must be related to the problem.
- Has to be reliable and accurate.

Types of Observation

Participant

- When you are a part of the observation, e.g. in a wedding, you are part of music and dancing along with observing.
- Participant takes active part in all activities of the observed group.
- Observed may or may not know the identity of the observer.
- Usually the identity of the observer is not known as the observed will become very conscious.
- Subjectivity is present and will be more as your identity bias.
- Complete participant observation : identity of observer is not known.

- Observer stays with the people for days/months. He gets completely involved in activities of group and stays with them in order to understand them completely and thoroughly.

#### Non-Participant

- When you observe from outside. The observer is not part of the group that is being observed, e.g.; sitting out in sangeet.
- Observed may or may not know of the observer's identity.
- More objectivity than subjectivity-less bias.
- Notes more than participant observer.
- Personal bias may contaminate the results.
- Question unantitative data is less and difficult to find.
- Noting sequence is after observation.

Steps involved for participant and non-participant observation:

1. Selection of appropriate group.
2. Familiarise with group and its activities.
3. Do research in sequence.
4. Get involved /observe from outside depending on the type of participation.

#### **Question 8.**

**Elaborate on the functional method used for the study of sociology.**

**Answer:**

This approach appeared initially as a reaction against the methods and claims of the evolutionists. Functional analysis is a method of sociological enquiry which examines social and cultural items by locating them in a wider context. This usually means showing how these items affect and are affected by others with which they coexist over time, within the same social system. In other words, functional method refers to the functional analysis which is also known as "functionalism". This asserts that the principal task of sociology is to examine the contribution of social items that make the social and cultural life of human collectivities. It examines social phenomenon in a way so as to explain why these items occur at all, why they have persisted?

The central concern is with the source of order and stability in society.

The focus is on:

1. The way social institutions help to maintain order and continuity in social life.
2. The way structural arrangements in society influence behaviour.

It may be said that functional analysis is a method which refers to factors and forces of integration, equilibrium and also disequilibrium. At a given time, inter-relation between components of society can be studied from functional point of view.

#### **Question 9.**

**What is survey method?**

**Answer:**

Survey: It is a systematic collection of facts about a defined social group. The term usually refers to data collections that employ both interviewing and sampling to produce quantitative data-sets, amenable to computer based analysis.

Sampling and interviewing are employed in many other research designs. It is the combination of the two that has led to the social survey or sample survey, becoming the most important single type of social research, used by all the social sciences, market research and opinion polls.

1. Surveys can be used to provide descriptive statistics for national, regional or local population; to examine the clustering of social phenomena; to identify the social location and characteristics of subgroups for more intensive follow-up case-study research and to analyse causal processes and test explanations.
2. In recent years sociological survey analysis has been greatly extended to include the sophisticated multivariate modelling techniques that are common in econometrics.
3. One of the main attractions of the sample survey for both policy research and theoretical research is its transparency and accountability, methods and procedures can be made visible and accessible to other parties, unlike research designs that depend heavily on the contribution of individual researchers.
4. The key disadvantage is that surveys normally use structured questionnaires, which constrain an enquiry to paths fixed at the start of fieldwork.
5. Other criticism which are sometimes levelled at surveys are that numerical variables rarely provide adequate operationalization of sociological constructs; the highly asymmetric power relationship between researcher and interviewee is detrimental to the quality of the data collected; they provide a false aura of objectivity which makes their result vulnerable to political manipulation.
6. Many of these criticisms can be overcome by good survey design and implementation. Survey interviews may be personal, postal or conducted by telephone. Telephone surveys are particularly common.

**Question 10.**

**What is sample?**

**Answer:**

A group of people that take part in a research investigation and are presumed to be representative of the population from which they have been drawn. Because of the constraints of time, money and practicality, psychologists can hardly ever study the whole population and therefore are forced to sample from it using one of the sampling methods.

Sampling refers to the process by which research psychologists attempt to select a representative group from the population under study. As an entire population tends to be too large to work with, a smaller group of participants must act as a representative

sample. In an attempt to select a representative sample and thus avoid sampling bias (the over-representation of one category of participant in the sample), psychologists utilize a variety of sampling methods, such as:

1. Random Sample: Each member of the population under study stands the same chance of being selected.
2. Stratified Sample: The composition of the sample reflects the composition of the population, e.g. 30 percent males, 70 percent females in the population determines that the sample shall contain a selection of 70 percent females, 30 percent males.
3. Quota Sample: The researcher selects a quota of people roughly in proportion to their occurrence in the population (e.g. a quota of different age groups).
4. Opportunity Sample: Roughly a case of selecting whoever is available at the time at that location.