

HISTORICAL METHODOLOGY

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RESEARCH

- Research is the activity undertaken to bring about something new to extend the horizon of knowledge, and to contribute some new ideas.
- It adds to the existing knowledge , through a systematic study or investigation of a particular subject.
- Historical research can contribute either all or any of the three important activities.
 - 1. Collection of New Data.
 - 2.Fresh interpretation of the data already known.
 - 3. Subordination of the Data to a principle

DATA COLLECTION

- It is simplest type of research.
- Here a student collects data and adds some new facts and figures in his research work.
- Historians and researchers need to have mental aptitude and some special qualities
- Examples can be seen in Ancient, Medieval, Modern and Contemporary History.

INTERPRETATION OF DATA

- The researcher explains , interprets and evaluates all the material collected or available in his own way with a critical aptitude so that some definite conclusions could be arrived at.
- In case a researcher produces conflicting ideas and does not give any firm conclusions, there will be no need of doing research work.
- Stress has been laid on subjectivity.
- Sometimes authors and historians interpret data according to their point of view, hence sometimes the interpretation is quite distorted.
- Examples can be seen in Indian history,- the versions by Indian and foreign authors.

SUBORDINATION OF DATA TO A PRINCIPLE

- It elevates a scholar to a meta-historian
- All the information gathered is put in the form of a doctrine or law or principle
- The researcher synthesises all his knowledge to come out with a theory in order to explain a fundamental principle
- Years of analysis would be required to come up to the level of assigning a theory.

QUALITIES OF A GOOD RESEARCHER

- Mental Outlook-he should have the power of interpretation and understanding.
- Critical Outlook-to see and interpret the data collected with a critical point of view.
- Capability of interpretation-a good researcher interprets the data in such a convincing manner as his view point may be accepted by other scholars and readers without any hesitation.
- Capacity for labour
- Subject knowledge

- Collection of Material- Primary and Secondary Sources
- Objective view-a good researcher must be objective in his views and approach.
- Balanced view-must have a balanced outlook of every event,
- Tools of Research-a good researcher must be capable to know all the latest tools and techniques necessary for accuracy.
- Qualitative work-stress on quality instead of quantity.
- Flexibility in research plan-in planning
- Common sense and Boldness to face Criticism
- Knowledge of Research Methodology