Introduction to Research

Objectives

- This presentation will assist you in improving your knowledge about basic issues in research. Hence, after this presentation you will be able to:
- 1- define research and some common terminologies
- 2- describe approaches to research
- 3- differentiate between quantitative and qualitative studies
- 4- explain qualities of good research and good researchers.

What is research?

- investigation of natural phenomena
- ✓ Systematic
- ✓ controlled
- √ empirical
- ✓ moral
- **✓** public
- ✓ critical

Approaches to research

- Quantitative research
- Qualitative research
- Mixed method study

Other research terminology

- Basic research
- Applied research
- Field research
- Laboratory research
- Inductive or deductive research

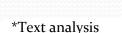
Quantitative\Qualitative comparisons

Quantitative characteristics Steps in the process of research **Oualitative characteristics** Description and explanation Identifying a research problem Exploratory and oriented understanding oriented *Major role Reviewing the literature *Minor role *Specific, narrow * General, broad Specifying a purpose *Measurable, observable data *Participants' experiences *Predetermined instruments *Numeric data **Collecting data** *General, emerging from text or image data *Large number of individuals

Analyzing and interpreting data

Reporting and evaluating research

- *Statistical analysis
- *Comparisons
- *Standard, fixed
- *Objective and unbiased



- *The larger meaning of findings
- *Flexible, emerging
- *Reflexive and biased

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Characteristics of good research

- Based on previous work and a thorough review of literature
- Based on theory
- Apolitical, objective and logical
- Designed to answer a question or solve a problem
- Can be replicated and validated

Characteristics of good research

- Can be generalized to other settings(quantitative)
- Uses accurate observation and measurement
- Requires patient, unhurried activity
- Involves rigorous analysis of data
- Results are reported for others to utilize and critique

Characteristics of good researchers

- Inquisitive
- Patient, unhurried and deliberate
- Perseverant and determined
- Systematic and logical

Characteristics of good researchers

- Doubtful and skeptical
- Independent, objective, impartial and honest
- Seek order and understanding
- Courageous

Summary

- Definition of research and other terminologies
- Approaches to research
- Quantitative\qualitative comparisons
- Characteristics of good research
- Characteristics of good researchers

