Characteristics, Importance and Objectives of Research: An Overview of the Indispensable of Ethical Research

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Abstract- This study focuses on Characteristics, Importance and Objectives (CIO) of research. The main aim of this article is to emphasize on research ethics. Knowledge in characteristics, importance and objectives of research motivate to be ethical in research. It is the utmost importance knowing these three basic subjects of research for researchers specially for novice researchers. These improve research mentality, academic attitude and way of thinking that enable researcher to choose research area, generate constructive potential research title. In addition, motivate to know what the problem is and cause of problem and how to solve the recognized valid problem. In fact, an outstanding unique contribution of a research depends on applying research ethics. A profound understanding the (CIO) of research reinforce research motive and enable to follow research ethics that is core requirement in each research activities.

Index Terms- characteristics of research, importance of research, objectives of research, research problem, research ethics, basic research, applied research.

I. Introduction

Research is primarily an enterprise of knowledge construction. The researcher (and co-researchers), with his or her participants, is engaged in producing knowledge[1]. Studying meanings and definitions of research help to understand basic concept of research. Also, we can know the basic idea of characteristics, importance and objectives of research by studying its meanings and definitions. Nevertheless, it is essential for researchers understanding the particularly characteristics, importance and objectives of research in the light of reliable scholars' opinion. These motivate a researcher to be a skilful and an ethical researcher by following relevant research methodology and research ethics as though they do not ignore CIO of research which lead researcher to find appropriate answer of research questions that is expected objectives of each research forever. Usually, any type of research cannot be conducted without some basic characteristics of research. Nevertheless, few characteristics of research are depends on type, area and subject of research. For example, characteristics of disability research[2], characteristics of social research[3], characteristics of biological research[4],[5],. Each research has a particular importance[6] and objective[7]. On the one hand, objectiveless research is a vain effort; on the other hand, evil objective of a research is unethical effort. An ethical and skilful researcher is very conscious about valid and permissible objective of research.

II. Indispensable of Ethical Research

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that deals with morals. It is the philosophy of what is right and wrong[8]. Ethics is a branch of philosophy that theoretically, logically, and rationally determines right from wrong, good from bad, moral from immoral, and just from unjust actions, conducts, and behavior[9]. The motive force in Islamic ethics is the notion that every human being is called to

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"command the good and forbid the evil[10]" (Qur'an 9:112, 22:41, 3:104) in all spheres of life (Qur'an 3:110)[11].

Research ethics provides guidelines for the responsible conduct of research to ensure all research is conducted at a high ethical standard[12]. It educates and monitors as well as enables responsible scientists to confirm a high ethical standard in conducting research[13]. It is worthwhile mentioning that the research ethics is a key part of advanced academic learning in all academic disciplines, as it prevents different forms of misconduct and fraud[14]. Therefore, scientists have become increasingly aware of the importance of ethics in research and have contributed a great lot towards ethics discourse[15].

There are at least two major dimensions of ethics in all research. These are (a) procedural ethics, which usually involves seeking approval from a relevant ethics committee to undertake research involving humans; and (b) "ethics in practice" or the everyday ethical issues that arise in the doing of research. It could be argued that there is another dimension—research ethics as articulated in professional codes of ethics or conduct. Most professions and organizations have professional codes of conduct (Bulmer,1982;[16] Coady & Bloch, 1996;[17] Homan, 1991)[18].

In fact, truth and trustworthy results are 'flesh and bones' of scientific research. To have trustworthy results and to avoid misconduct, researchers should use optimal study designs and follow ethical standards[19]. In the fight against intellectual dishonesty on ethics education in science has a significant place. A general understanding of ethics in scientific research work in all its stages had to be acquired during the undergraduate course[20]. Definitely, the main motivation of research ethics is CIO; it is a basis of all other structures, frameworks and ethical paradigm of research. Hence, profound understanding CIO of research is vital subject for all researchers.

III. Characteristics of Research

Commonly researcher has to adopt few essential characters to be a good researcher. By applying these characters research work will be progressed with systematically. I have mentioned some fundamental characteristics of research. Each researcher has to be attentive on these following characteristics:

***Uses Scientific Methods*:** Research uses scientific methods to discover facts and tries to give solutions to specified problems. Researchers follow organised procedure to carry out research. To receive better results, scientific method is used for carrying out investigation[21].

Continuous Process: It is a continuous process as it studies existing facts and also develops new facts. Research also tries to distinguish relationship among variables[22].

Multipurpose Activity: Research is a multipurpose activity as it not only includes collection of data but also includes predicting future, establishing relationship between variables, finding solutions to problems, and developing new theories, tools, and concepts[23].

Maintains Objectivity and Eliminates Impartiality: Research is based on suitable procedures. It collects appropriate, precise and objective data to understand research problem. After data collection, researcher process data, analyse it and arrive at appropriate solutions[24].

Empirical Nature: Empirical research can be undertaken to study situations where methods such as observation, experimentation or survey can be used for conducting research[25]. Empirical approach used to contribute towards enhancing our understanding of what the main research problems[26].

Generalisation: Research conclusions can be applied to a large population. Research can be carried on sample of respondents that represents the universe where the conclusions

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generated through research can be applied to the complete universe[27].

Researchers Controlled Movement of the Research Procedure: In social research, there are many factors that have an effect on result. Due to various factors, some of them can be considered as controlled factors while others can be tested for possible consequences. But, it is difficult to execute controlled experiments in social researches, whereas it is easy to perform controlled experiments in pure sciences[28].

Development of Concepts and Theories: Research helps to develop new concepts and theories where these innovations can be useful for the betterment of society at a large scale[29]. These characters are useful for all type of research. Moreover, each type of research has individual specific character.

IV. Importance of Research

Research is an essential and powerful tool in leading man towards progress. Without systematic research there would have been very little progress[30]. Hudson Maxim[31] (1853-1927) said "All progress is born of inquiry[32]. Doubt is often better than overconfidence, for it leads to inquiry, and inquiry leads to invention". Increased amounts of research make progress possible[33]. Research is significant both in scientific and non-scientific fields[34]. Research is important for the following reasons: (1) A research problem refers to a complexity which a researcher or a scientific community or an industry or a government organisation or a society experiences. It may be a theoretical or a practical situation. It calls for a systematic understanding and possible solution[35]. (2). Research on existing theories and concepts help us recognise their range and applications[36]. (3). It is the bank of knowledge and provides strategy for solving problems[37]. (4). It is important in industry and business for higher profits, output, and efficiency and to improve the quality of products[38]. (5). Mathematical and logical research on business and industry reduces the problems in them[39]. (6). It leads to the identification and categorisation of new materials, new living things, new stars, etc[40]. (7). Inventions can be done through research[41]. (8). Social research helps find answers to social problems. They explain social phenomena and try to find solution to social problems[42]. Thus, research is the fountain of knowledge for the sake of knowledge and an important source of providing guidelines for solving different business, governmental and social problems. It is a category of formal training which enables one to understand the new developments in one's field in a better way[43].

V. Objectives of Research

In my opinion, if we want to know objectives, type and method of research we have to focus on meaning and definitions of research. Really, there have main objectives of research in meaning and definitions of research. Nevertheless, the researcher presented distinctly objectives of research from research methodology literatures.

The purpose of research is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures. The main aim of

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research is to find out the truth (information, causes, purposes, facts, knowledge, philosophy and so on) which is hidden and which has not been discovered as yet. Though each research study has its own specific purpose, we may think of research objectives might be into a number of vital objectives[44]. For example, (1) To portray accurately the characteristics of a particular individual, situation or a group (studies with this object in view are known as *descriptive* research studies)[45]**.** (2) To determine the frequency with which something occurs or with which it is associated with something else (studies with this object in view are known as *diagnostic* research studies)[46]. (3) To test a hypothesis of a causal relationship between variables (such studies are known as *hypothesis-testing* research studies)[47]. (4) To understand clearly an observed phenomenon and explain its logic and reason for happening. (5) To get insights about problem. (6) To find solutions for a problem. (7) To test existing laws or theories. (8) To develop new ideas, concepts and theories. (9) To identify areas where research could make the difference. (10) To predict future of events[48]. Additionally, (11) To interpret theory. (12) To develop research methodology from the divine perspective. (13) To interpret the divine knowledge (14) To derive philosophy, principle and solution of problem from the Holy Qur'an (15) To understand the truth and reality. (16) To know the sciences (17) To know the divine creativities in Creation. (18) To appropriate management of resources. (19) To establish human and environment friendly society. (20) To know the Creator. (21) To know the purpose of human life. (22) To know how to protect human life from astray. (23) To arrange acceptable answer of valid research questions. (24) To extend dimensions of beneficial knowledge. (25) To identify the research gap in basic research. (26) To recognize the research problem in applied research. (27) To arrest the causes of problem. (28) To examine past research works.

These objectives are a summary of meaning and definition of research. From these objectives one more or two more or three more objectives could be in a research. It is not a mandatory must be only an objective or one more objectives in a research. Research work cannot be conducted aimlessly. Hence, must be minimum an objective in a research.

VI. Conclusion

We cannot confine Characteristic, Importance and Objectives (CIO) of research. These rely on type, area and topic of research. Fundamental CIO of research generally for all type and area of research have been presented in this article. In fact, each researcher has to know these CIO, and endeavour first of all what are academically approvals CIO of his research. Also, have to be determined on legal CIO of his research from beginning to conclusion. Should be strictly determined on that should not be moved away from research ethics by any interfering, unethical influence, political force, secularism notion as well as unethical personal interest that is anti-religious, and harmful for social and natural environment and so on. Unfortunately, few so-called researchers who give priority unethical interest on research ethics; consequently they underestimate the CIO of their research. Therefore, in this case we ethical researchers, scholars and scientists do not allow this is an acceptable research. Unethical research is poison in research resources. Apparently, such researches have been polluting the research environment as well as research world for a long period. Hence, appreciation characteristics, importance and objectives of research are keys for ethical, acceptable and fruitful research for ever.

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