

A magnifying glass with a dark wooden frame is positioned over an old, yellowed document. The document contains faint technical drawings of mechanical parts on the left and handwritten text in a cursive script across the rest of the page. The magnifying glass's lens is centered over the text, which is slightly blurred. The background is a light, textured surface.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH DESIGN

**PRESENTED
BY:LAXMI
THAPA**



Historical research design

- Analyzing the past events and develops the present concept and conclusion.
- Analyzing the previous information or events minutely and testing their validity.
- The purpose of a **historical research design** is to collect, verify, and synthesize evidence from the past to establish facts that defend or refute a hypothesis.
- Describes what occurred in the past.
- Depends upon data observed by other rather than investigator.

Examples of Historical research studies

- ❖ A historical research on the development of nursing in Nepal
- ❖ A historical research on the development of nursing education in Nepal



Characteristics

- Historical research involves the careful study and analysis of data about past events.
- It is a critical investigation of events, their development, experiences of past.
- The purpose is to gain a clearer understanding of the impact of past on present and future events related to life process.
- Involves the review of written materials but may include oral documentation as well.

- Typically relies on available data which are in form of diaries, letters, newspaper, reports and so on.
- It covers categories such as historical legal, documentary, bibliographical, biographical, institutional, ideational and organizational.
- Important existing sources for nurse researchers are hospital records, order sheets, nursing charts, physicians and care plan statements.

STEPS OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

1. FIRST STEP: data collection
2. SECOND STEP: criticism of the data
3. THIRD STEP: presentation of the facts

First step: data collection

Comprehensive gathering of data is undertaken.

Historical sources of data are usually classified into two main categories:

❖ **Primary sources:**

Primary sources are first hand information that include:

- Remains or relic associated with persons, groups, periods or events.
- Fossils, skeletons, tools, weapons, utensils, clothing, furniture, pictures, painting, coins and art objects are examples of remains that were not deliberately intended for use in transmitting information or to be used as a record.

- Oral or testimony or the records kept and written by actual participants in an event or actual witnesses of the same.
- Documents called as primary sources are constitutions, characters, laws, official records, deeds, wills, licenses, newspapers, magazine e.t.c.

❖ **Secondary sources:**

These are the reports of people who related the testimony of an actual witness of an event or actual participants in the same. For example: most of the history books and encyclopaedia.

Second step: criticism of data

- The second step necessitates a comprehensive review of gathered materials. **Christy (1975)** describes the analytic process of document review as a two-pronged activity.
 - 1. External criticism:** the establishment of validity by determining the authenticity of the source.
 - ✓ External criticism is covered basically with the authenticity and genuineness of data.
 - ✓ It primarily deals with data relating to form and appearance rather than meaning of contents, while internal criticism weighs the testimony of document in relation to truth.

✓ The nurse ascertained that all the documents were original. First-hand oral and written accounts were accepted as valid.

2. Internal criticism: the determination of reliability by Correctly interpreting the contents of the documents.

❖ The use of original, authentic sources; awareness of one's biases; the substantiation of the document in question by another collaborating source are a few of the safeguards used to ensure that interpretations are correct.

- ❖ To ensure reliability, the nurse examined each document to make sure that the meaning of facts and statements was clearly understood.
- ❖ After authenticity of a historical document or relic has been established, the next question is to establish the validity of its contents or to determine the accuracy and value of the statement made.
- ❖ In performing internal criticism, historians must make several determinations, which require historical knowledge beyond perusal of the materials in question.

❖ Evidence bearing on the accuracy of historical data might include one of the following:

- 1) Comparison with other people's accounts of the same event to determine degree of agreement.
- 2) Knowledge of time at which the document was produced.
- 3) Knowledge of the points of view or biases of the written and oral documents.
- 4) Knowledge of the degree of competence of the writer to record events authoritatively and accurately.

Third step: presentation of facts

After evaluating the authenticity and accuracy of historical data, the researcher must bring the material together to analyse it and to test the research hypotheses.

- Historical researchers must be extremely careful at this point since the analysis of historical data involves logical processes rather than statistical ones and therefore possibility of subjectivity arises.
- Historical composition is a synthetic and constructive process that involves the mechanical problem of documentation, logical problem of arrangement of topics and subtopics and philosophical problem of interpretation.

- ❖ The organization of historical material can also be done in topical, thematic or functional arrangement.
- ❖ The writing of history demands careful avoidance of following factors:
 - Oversignifying facts.
 - Overgeneralizations from insufficient evidence.
 - Failure to distinguish between significant and trivial facts.
 - Tendency to use secondary data.
 - Personal bias
 - A dull and colourless style.
 - Failure to interpret words and expressions in light of their usage in earlier times.

AREAS OF HISTORICAL STUDY

1. **Periods:** Historical studies focus on events and developments that occurred during particular blocks of time in the past. Historical researcher gives these periods of time names in order to allow the organization of ideas and classificatory generalization to be used by these researchers,
2. **Geographical location:** particular geographical locations can form the basis of historical study. For example: continents, countries and cities.
3. **Military history:** concentrates on the study of conflicts that have happened in human society. This includes examining the wars, battles, military strategies, and weaponry.

Methods and Tools Used in HR

- a. **Contemporaneous corroboration:** it is further support provided by the existing evidence about the past events. It is powerful method used to establish facts beyond their limited lifespans.
- b. **Photography:** A methodological tool for collection of all known information about individuals in a given period.
- c. **Historical revisionism:** traditionally used in completely natural sense to describe the work or idea of historian who has revised a previously accepted view of a particular topic.
- d. **Change log:** log or record of changes made to a project such as website or software project.

- e. **Human evolution:** process of change and development or evolution by which human beings emerged as distinctively special.
- f. **Social change:** changes in nature, social institutions, social behavior or the social relations of a society or community of people.

Thank you for your
attention!

