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Types of Research

The number of research studies conducted to advance scientific knowledge continues to increase. To ensure that the quality and rigor of research evolve in parallel with this growth, researchers should have a sound understanding of fundamental research principles and methodologies.

Researchers planning to conduct a scientific study should carefully consider, in advance, a range of fundamental questions, including the purpose of the research, the target population, the methods and instruments to be used, the manner in which the study will be conducted, and the potential contribution of the findings to the scientific community.

Once the research question has been clearly formulated, selecting the most appropriate study design to address that question becomes a critical component of the research process. Within this framework, a brief overview of the principal types of research is provided below:

1. Observational Research

a. Descriptive Studies

- Case reports
- Case series
- Ecological studies, including correlational studies

b. Analytical Studies

- Case-control studies
- Cross-sectional studies
- Cohort studies

2. Experimental Research

a. Intervention Studies

- Randomized controlled trials
- Non-randomized intervention studies
- Quasi-experimental studies

3. Methodological Research

a. Validity Studies

b. Reliability Studies

c. Other Methodological Studies

This classification should be familiar to all researchers, and the study design should be selected in accordance with the specific objectives and research question. Each category and study design has distinct methodological characteristics, strengths, and limitations.

Failure to select an appropriate study design for a clearly defined research question may increase the risk of bias, methodological error, and misleading or invalid conclusions.

Consequently, the research process may deviate from sound scientific principles, potentially compromising the validity and contribution of the findings.

All researchers have a responsibility to approach these issues with due care and to ensure that their research is designed and conducted according to appropriate methodological and scientific standards.

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