

## Interpretation and Report Writing

After collecting and analyzing the data, the researcher has to accomplish the task of drawing inferences followed by report writing. This has to be done very carefully, otherwise misleading conclusions may be drawn and the whole purpose of doing research may get vitiated. It is only through interpretation that the researcher can expose relations and processes that underlie his findings.

### Meaning of Interpretation:

Interpretation refers to the task of drawing inference from the collected facts after an analytical and/or experimental study. In fact, it is a search for broader meaning of research findings. The task of interpretation has two major aspects viz. (i) the effort to establish continuity in research through linking the results of a given study with those of another and (ii) the establishment of some explanatory concepts.

### Why Interpretation?

Interpretation is essential for the simple reason that the usefulness and utility of research findings lie in proper interpretation. It is being considered a basic component of research process because of the following reasons:

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- (i) It is through interpretation that the researcher can well understand the abstract principle that works beneath his findings.
  - (ii) Interpretation leads to the establishment of explanatory concepts that can serve as a guide for future research studies.
  - (iii) Researcher can better appreciate only through interpretation why his findings are what they are and can make others to understand the real significance of his research findings.
  - (iv) The interpretation of the findings of exploratory research often results into hypotheses for experimental research and as such interpretation is involved in the transition from exploratory to experimental research.

### Technique of Interpretation:

The technique of interpretation often involves the following steps -

1. Researcher must give reasonable explanations of the relations which he has found and he must interpret the lines of relationship in terms of the underlying processes and must try to find out the thread of uniformity that lies -

under the surface layer of his diversified research findings. In fact, this is the technique of how generalization should be done and concepts be formulated.

2. Extraneous information, if collected during the study, must be considered while interpreting the final results of research study, for it may prove to be a key factor in understanding the problem under consideration.
3. It is advisable, before embarking upon final interpretation, to consult someone having insight into the study and who is frank and honest and will not hesitate to point out omissions and error in logical argumentation. Such a consultation will result in correct interpretation and, thus, will enhance the utility of research results.
4. Researcher must accomplish the task of interpretation only after considering all relevant factors affecting the problem to avoid false generalization. He must be in no hurry while interpreting results, for quite often the conclusions, which appear to be all right at the beginning, may not at all be accurate.

### Precautions in Interpretation:

1. At the outset, researcher must invariably satisfy himself that (a) the data are appropriate, trustworthy and adequate for drawing inference (b) the data reflect good homogeneity and that (c) proper analysis has been done through statistical methods.

2. The researcher must remain cautious about the errors that can possibly arise in the process of interpreting results. Errors can arise due to false generalization and/or due to wrong interpreting of statistical measures, such as the application of findings beyond the range of observations, identifications of correlation with causation and the like.

3. He must always keep in view that task of interpretation is very much intertwined with analysis and cannot be distinctly separated.

4. He must never lose sight of the fact that his task is not only to make sensitive observations of relevant occurrences, but also to identify and disengage the factors that are initially hidden to the eye. This will enable him to do his job of interpretation on proper lines.

5. The researcher must remember that "ideally in the course of a research study, there should be constant interaction between initial hypothesis, empirical observation and theoretical conceptions."