research:
asking yourself

online lecture
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Planning for or Doing Social Science research

First Ask Yourself

In order to conduct an empirical research in Social Science (s), ask yourself the following Questions..
1. Research Problem Identification

- What exactly do I want to find out?
- What is a *researchable* problem?
- What are *obstacles* in terms of knowledge, data availability, time, or resources?
2. Literature Review

What does the **relevant literature** in the field indicate about this problem?

To which **theory or conceptual framework** can I link it?

What are the **criticisms** of this approach?

What is the **history and updated knowledge** of this problem that what others need to know?
3. Variables and Hypothesis

- Which are the independent and which are the dependent variables?
- Is the hypothesis specific enough to be researchable yet still meaningful?
- How certain am I of the relationship(s) between variables?
- What are other possible causes of the relationship between the variables?
4. OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS AND MEASUREMENT

- What is the unit of measurement?
- How will the research variables be measured?
- What degree of error in the findings is tolerable?
- Will other people agree with my choice of measurement operations?
5. Research Design

- What is my overall strategy for doing this research?
- Will this design permit me to answer the research question?
- What are the threats to internal and external validity?
6. Sampling

How will I choose my sample of persons or events or institution?

Am I interested in random representativeness?

If so, of whom or what, and with what degree of accuracy or level of confidence?
7. Research Tools

- How will I get the data I need to study my objectives or test my hypothesis?
- What tools or devices will I use to make or record observations and measurements?
- Are valid and reliable instruments available, or must I construct my own?
8. Data Collection

- Are there multiple groups, time periods, instruments, or situations?

- How will I coordinate steps in the data collection process?

- Will respondents, interviewers, observers, or analysts need to be trained?

- Can the data be collected and subjects’ rights still preserved?
9. Data Analysis

- What combinations of analytical & statistical process will be applied to the data?
- Which statistics description or inference will allow me to accept or reject my hypotheses?
- Do the finding show numerical differences, and are those differences important?
10. Conclusion

- How I could achieve objectives and could answer my research questions?
- Was my initial hypothesis supported? What if my findings are negative?
- What are the implications of my findings for the theory base, for the background assumptions, or relevant literature?
- What recommendations can I make for public policies or programs in this area?
- What suggestions can I make for further research on this topic?