

# How to Identify an Appropriate Research Problem ?

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What is the meaning of the word “ Problem” ?

“ A situation, person, or thing that needs attention and needs to be dealt with or solved ”

Ref. Cambridge Dictionary

# What is Research Problem ?

- An issue that narrows the research area down to something reasonable for conducting research

# Importance of Research Problem

- Problem leads to research
- Prime motivation for a research
- It is fundamental in any research project
- Research problem leads to formulation of
  - Research question
  - Hypotheses
  - Research objectives
  - Guides to select the type of research ( Qualitative or Quantitative)

# Nature of a Research Problem

- Concern or issue
- Controversy
- Troubling question in literature, in theory and in practice
- Condition to be improved
- Difficulty to be eliminated
- Challenge

# Sources of a Research Problem

- Personal experience
- Professional experience
- Deduction from theories
- From review of literature
- Suggestion from research supervisor and funding agency
- Developmental need base

# Criteria for a Problem to be Researchable

- Feasible and within the capacity
- Novel
- Interesting
- Relevant
- Ethical
- Not too broad
- Time bound

# Statement of Research Problem

- In the introduction section of a research proposal
- As concise paragraphs
- Elements of research problem statement
  - Actual research problem
  - Justification / rationale of doing research for this problem
  - Deficiency (Gap) in the existing knowledge regarding the research problem
  - Benefits from the proposed research

# References:

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2. Parlindungan P. Identifying and formulating the research problem. Research in English Language Teaching(Module-1), 2018, Pp 1-13