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Class - B.A. (H) Ist Year

Paper - I Fundamental Psychology

Topic - Case selection and structure

Case Selection and Structure

Case selection in case study research is generally intended to both find cases that are a representative sample and which have variations on the dimensions of theoretical interest. Using that is solely representative, such as an average or typical case is often not the richest in information. In clarifying lines of history and causation it is more useful to select subjects that offer an interesting, unusual or particularly revealing set of circumstances. A case selection that is based on representativeness will seldom be able to produce these kinds of insights. Cases should generally be chosen that have a high expected information gain.

Distinct advantages and disadvantages are associated with the case study in psychology. The case study is sometimes mistaken for the case method, but the two are not the same.

Advantages of Case Study

One major advantage of the case study in psychology is the potential for the development of novel hypotheses for later testing. Second, the case study can provide detailed information of specific and rare cases.

Disadvantage of Case Study

Case studies cannot be applied to determine causation.