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Class - D-34 Psychology

Paper - VIIth

Topic - Research Methods Vs Methodology

It seems appropriate at this juncture to explain the difference between research methods and research methodology.

Research methods may be understood as all those methods/ techniques that are used for conducting research.

Research methods or techniques, thus, refer to the researchers' use in performing research operations. In other words, all those methods which are used by the researcher during the course of studying his research problem are termed as research methods.

Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. If we study the various steps that are generally adopted by a researcher in studying

his research problem along with the logic behind them. It is necessary for the researcher to know not only the research methods / techniques but also the methodology. Researchers not only need to know how to develop certain indices or tests, how to calculate the mean, the mode, the median or the SD or chi-square, how to apply particular research techniques, but they also need to know which of these methods or techniques are relevant and which are not, and what would they mean and indicate and why.

Researchers also need to understand the assumptions underlying various techniques and procedures will be applicable to certain problems and others will not. This means that it is necessary for the researcher to design his methodology for his problem as the same may differ from problem to problem.