

Experimental research research paper examples

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Experimental research

Experimental research is a quantitative study design used by investigators to establish a cause-effect relationship. This can be done through a true or quasi-environment, which are different as discussed in this write-up.

Similarities

Differences

Firstly, true experiments are used where it is possible to manipulate all the possible variables with a view to measuring the results, while quasi-experiments are applicable where the investigator is unable to control all the factors that are likely to cause the hypothesized effect (CSU, 2013).

Moreover, true experiments require that the samples employed in the study be randomized in order to avert bias and confounding variables. This is aimed at ensuring that the experimental outcomes are reflective of the causal relationship under investigation. Quasi-experiments can be performed without any randomization (CSU, 2013).

Furthermore, quasi-experiments can be effectuated without any form of control, unlike true experiments. As such, whereas as in a true experiment the researcher must have a specific hypothesis outlining the cause-effect relationship, a quasi-experiment may have different hypotheses other than the main one (CSU, 2013). This is so because in a quasi-experiment, there may emerge other unanticipated results, which are explained by the parallel theories.

In conclusion, experiments are a reliable methodology of studying causal relationships. True experiments are preferable where strict control is necessary to determine the causal relationship. Quasi-experiments are

useful where it is impossible to strictly control one or more variable or randomize the study samples.

References

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