

# Introduction to social sciences

[Sociology](#)



Hypothesis Sociological work is undertaken with the help of hypothesis that is defined as a mererelationship between two variables in a hypothetical nature. The ground on which a hypothesis is more likely to be proven as predication is theoretical. The implication of hypothesis in any social research work may take different forms that are defined as null or alternative hypothesis. This paper aims to clearly assess hypothesis usage in social work.

Many researchers claim that hypothesis helps a study to undertake specified results. It should be noted that these hypotheses are tested further once theoretical assessment is undertaken. There are many definitions for hypothesis available in academics. For instance, one most stated definition of hypothesis is its synonymous usage of scientific theory<sup>1</sup>. However, the fact remains that sometimes hypothesis may be fairly different from that of theory as it is a tentative fact which is proven by assessment of data collected and further observed for its authenticity. In other words, it can be said that hypothesis is mere generalization of an argument which may reach against or pro depending upon the quality of statement being proposed (Poincaré).

Figure 1: Implication of Hypothesis<sup>2</sup>

As noted above, there are different types of hypothesis. Null hypothesis is one which shows no relationship between the two variables. There is default relationship between variables as well which are represented as null hypothesis. Secondly, alternative hypothesis suggested that the two chosen variables have a common relationship between each other.

Figure 2 Hypotheses as a Part of Research Process<sup>3</sup>

In addition, it can be said that there cannot be any research study possible

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for its successful conclusion until there is a base hypothesis selected for its workability. The usage of hypothesis for a research work is as old as research process itself<sup>4</sup>. Astronomers, sociologists, scientists, mathematicians etc. all have made effective usage of hypothesis to find out relationship between different elements. In modern research and statistics, usage of hypothesis remains one of the most critical stages as there can be number possible results of a single assumption<sup>5</sup>. Also, a hypothesis can play a significant role in assessing a research method. If the hypothesis is claiming a statistical measure with respect to another variable then it indicates statistical analysis of variables. On the other hand, there are many hypotheses which may indicate relationship in general without making use of measures. This also gives an idea to the researcher to undertake a qualitative research method (Poincaré).

Usage of hypothesis is not limited to a single form of research method. Be it qualitative or quantitative research method, hypothesis formation and testing are must in both the cases. Thus, from the above analysis, it becomes quite easy to understand that hypothesis is the first step that researchers undertake for any form of study or any field. The types of hypothesis further allow researchers to be effective in terms of recommendation and analysis.

#### Works Cited

Poincaré, H. *Science and Hypothesis*. New York: Courier Dover Publications, 2012. Print.