

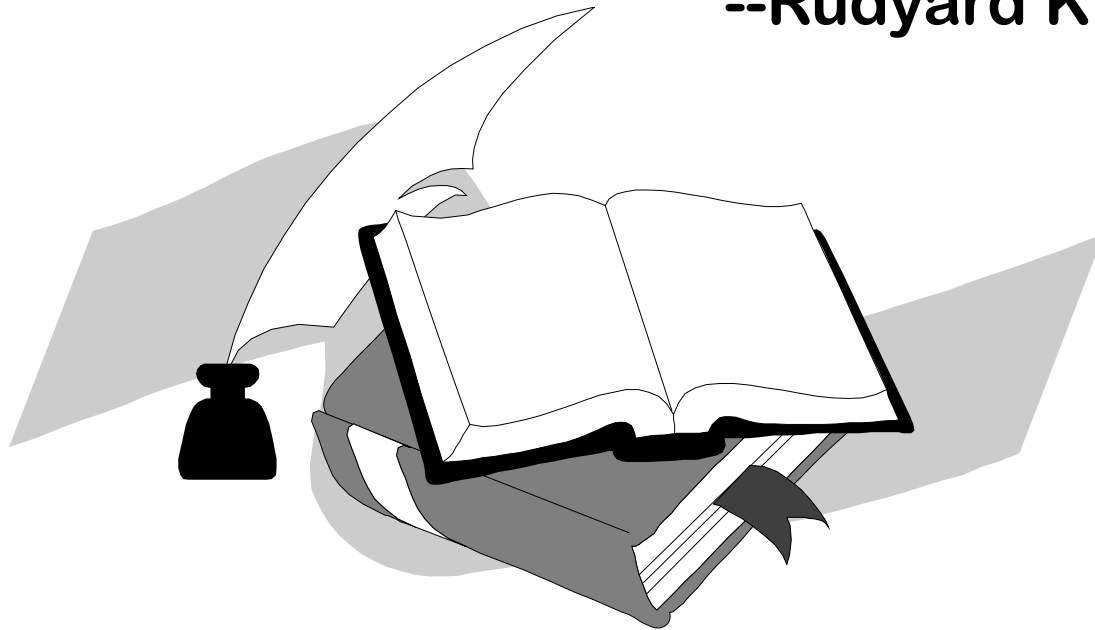
Module II

Concepts of Research

**Ref: C.R. Kothari (2009) Research
Methodology: Methods and Techniques.
New Age Publications (Academic)**

**“I keep six honest serving men, (they
taught me all I knew), their names are
what, and why, and when, and how,
and where and who.”**

--Rudyard Kipling



Meaning of Research: Definitions

- Research - a search for knowledge.
- “A scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic”
- Research - an art of scientific investigation.
- “A careful investigation or inquiry specially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge.” - The Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English
- “Systematized effort to gain new knowledge.” - Redman & Mory

Meaning of Research: Definitions

- Some people consider research as a movement
 - A movement from the known to the unknown.
 - A voyage of discovery
- All possess a vital instinct of **inquisitiveness**
 - When the unknown confronts us, we wonder
 - Our inquisitiveness makes us probe & attain full and fuller understanding of the unknown.
- **Inquisitiveness is the mother of all knowledge**
- Research - the method, which man employs for obtaining the knowledge of whatever the unknown

Meaning of Research: Definitions

- Research - an academic activity & term should be used in a technical sense.
- “Research comprises defining and redefining problems, formulating hypothesis or suggested solutions; collecting, organising and evaluating data; making deductions and reaching conclusions; and at last carefully testing the conclusions to determine whether they fit the formulating hypothesis” -- Clifford Woody
- “The manipulation of things, concepts or symbols for the purpose of generalising to extend, correct or verify knowledge, whether that knowledge aids in construction of theory or in the practice of an art” -- D. Slesinger & M. Stephenson in the “Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences”

Meaning of Research: Definitions

- Research - an original contribution to the existing stock of knowledge making for its advancement.
 - It is the pursuit of truth with the help of study, observation, comparison and experiment.
- In short, the **search for knowledge** through objective and systematic method of finding solution to a problem is research.
 - The systematic approach concerning generalisation and the **formulation of a theory** is also research.

Meaning of Research: Definitions

- As such the term '**research**' refers to the systematic method consisting of :
 - Enunciating (stating) the problem
 - Formulating a hypothesis
 - Collecting the facts or data
 - Analysing the facts
 - Reaching conclusions either in the form of:
 - solutions(s) towards the concerned problem or
 - Certain generalisations for some theoretical formulation