

CASE STUDY

Topic: 155-159

What is a case study?

A case study is a research methodology that has commonly used in social sciences. A case study is a research strategy and an empirical inquiry that investigates a phenomenon within its real-life context. Case studies are based on an in-depth investigation of a single individual, group or event to explore the causes of underlying principles.

Case study: The intensive study of a phenomenon

- Commonly used in social sciences – in-depth/detailed
- Case – unit, institution, concept or an individual
- Criminology – police enquiry
- Clinical diagnostic study
- Exhaustive method of exploring and analyzing
- Fact-findings about psychological or educational problems
- Research strategy and an empirical and real-life inquiry

Features of a case study:

Comprehensive study of a social unit of society

- Case study can be on a person, group, institution, community or family
- Smaller number of units to be studied
- Extensive - it studies a social unit deeply and thoroughly
- Both qualitative as well as quantitative
- Covers sufficient wide cycle of time
- Follow up - it has continuity in nature
- Illustrative – describe event or situation
- Exploratory – basic initial data to identify

- Cumulative – pulling together information for greater amount of information
- Critical instance – situations of unique interest – to challenge and to question

Types of case studies:

- Illustrative Case Studies
 - Typically utilizing one or two instances
- Exploratory (or pilot) Case Studies
 - For large scale studies
- Cumulative Case Studies
 - aggregate information from several sites
- Critical Instance Case Studies
 - Unique cases

Criteria of a good case studies

Essential characteristics of a satisfactory case

- Continuity
 - Desirable for information
- Completeness of data
 - Range of data
- Validity of data
- Confidential recording
 - Professional problems
- Scientific synthesis
 - Interpretation of the evidence

Steps in a case study:

Essential steps required to be taken

- Status of the situation or unit of attention

- Collection of data, examination and history
- Diagnosis and identification of casual factors
- Adjustment, treatment and therapy (treatment)
- Follow up program