RESEARCH

Dr. Kayode Odunuga (MBCh.B Ogun)

INTRODUCTION

- Research is a systematic process of investigating, exploring, and analyzing information to answer questions, solve problems, or generate new knowledge.
- It involves collecting data, evaluating evidence, and drawing conclusions based on methodical inquiry.
- Research can be conducted in various fields, such as healthcare, science, social sciences, or technology, and is critical for advancing understanding and informing practice.

Key Elements of Research

- **Purpose:** Aims to address a specific question, test a hypothesis, or explore a topic.
- **Systematic Approach:** Follows a structured method, including defining objectives, designing a study, collecting data, and analyzing results.

Types:

- Quantitative: Uses numerical data and statistical analysis (e.g., measuring numbers).
- Qualitative: Explores experiences, perceptions, or behaviors.
- Mixed-Methods: Combines both for a comprehensive understanding.

Steps:

- Identify a research problem or question.
- Review existing literature to understand the context.
- Design a methodology (e.g., surveys, interviews, experiments).
- Collect and analyze data.
- Report findings and propose implications or solutions.

What Makes a Good Research Topic?

- A good research topic is the foundation of a successful research project, characterized by specific qualities that ensure its relevance, feasibility, and impact. Here are the key attributes of a good research topic:
- **Relevance and Significance:** The topic should address a pressing issue or gap in knowledge that matters to society, stakeholders, or a specific field.
- **Clarity and Focus:** A good topic is specific and well-defined, avoiding vagueness.
- **Feasibility**: The topic must be researchable within the constraints of time, resources, and data availability. It is feasible because it leverages accessible data and aligns with existing infrastructure in the educational sector in Nigeria.

- **Novelty and Originality:** A good topic fills a gap in existing literature or offers a new perspective.
- **Interest and Passion:** The researcher’s interest drives motivation and quality.
- **Ethical Soundness:** The topic should allow for ethical research, respecting participants’ rights and cultural sensitivities.
- **Measurability and Researchability:** The topic should lend itself to clear research questions and measurable outcomes.

Idea Generation

- Idea generation involves brainstorming topics of interest, often inspired by personal experiences, societal issues, or gaps in knowledge.

Strategies:

- **Observation:** Identify problems in your community.
- **Questioning:** Ask “why” or “how” questions.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Combine fields (e.g., health and technology to explore Machine Learning models in the education sector).
- **Inspiration from News/Social Media:** Review recent educational campaigns or posts on the application of AI in the educational sector in Nigeria.

Problem Identification

- Problem identification involves narrowing a broad idea into a specific, researchable question or issue, often by identifying gaps or challenges.

Steps:

- Refine the Idea: Make the idea specific.
- Justify the Problem: Explain why it matters.
- Formulate a Research Question: Create a clear question.

Criteria for a Good Problem:

- Relevance: Addresses a significant issue (e.g., the use of AI in reducing out of school drop out in Nigeria).
- Feasibility: Can be studied with available resources.
- Clarity: Specific and focused.

Literature Review

- A literature review is a systematic analysis of existing research to understand what is known, identify gaps, and justify the research problem.

Purpose:

- Establish the context of the problem.
- Identify gaps (e.g., limited studies on the application of AI in education).
- Avoid duplicating existing research.

Steps:

- Search for Sources: Use academic databases (e.g. Google Scholar) with keywords (e.g., “AI in education”).
- Evaluate Sources: Prioritize peer-reviewed articles, recent studies (e.g., post-2018), and local research.
- Synthesize Findings: Group studies by themes (e.g., AI in education).
- Identify Gaps: Note areas with limited research (e.g., barriers to adoption of AI in education).
- Cite Properly: Use APA 7th edition for references.

Research Design

- Research design is the blueprint for conducting a study, outlining the structure to answer the research question.

- **Types:**
- Descriptive: Observes and describes phenomena (e.g., knowledge and adoption of AI tools among secondary school teachers in Osun State).
- Experimental: Tests cause-and-effect relationships (e.g., effectiveness of AI adoption in secondary school students).
- Correlational: Examines relationships without causation (e.g., AI tools and student academic performance among secondary school students in Osun State).
- Mixed Methods: Combines qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Methodology

- Methodology refers to the systematic approach to conducting research, including the study population, sampling, and procedures.
- **Population and Sampling:** Define the target group (e.g., secondary school tecahers in Osun State) and sampling method (e.g., random, purposive).
- **Study Setting:** Context matters (e.g., rural vs. urban).
- **Study Population**: The specific group of individuals the research focuses on, defined by characteristics like age, condition, or location.
- **Sample Size:** The number of participants selected from the study population to ensure statistical power and representativeness.

Methodology

- **Sampling technique:** The method used to select participants from the population, such as random, stratified, or convenience sampling.
- **Instrument for Data Collection:** Tools used to gather data, such as questionnaires, interviews, or medical records.
- **Validity and Reliability:** Validity ensures the instrument measures what it intends while reliability ensures consistent results across repeated measures.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Obtain ethical approval and informed consent.

Data Collection Analysis

- **Data Collection Methods:**
- Quantitative: Surveys, questionnaires (e.g., closed-ended questions).
- Qualitative: Interviews, focus groups (e.g., focus group discussions to explore teachers perceptions on adoption of AI in education in Osun State).
- Mixed Methods: Combining both for richer insights (e.g., questionnaires and focus groups).

- **Data Analysis:**
- Quantitative: Descriptive statistics (e.g., percentages of teachers knowledge about AI) and inferential statistics (e.g., Chi-square tests, p-value = 0.001).
- Qualitative: Thematic analysis using tools like MAXQDA (e.g., analyzing quotes like “AI would lead to poor academic performance” from focus groups).
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MANUSCRIPT REVIEW

- Manuscript review is a critical process in academic publishing where experts evaluate a research paper before it is published in a journal or presented at a conference.
- This process ensures research quality, validity, and relevance, directly impacting fields like education or technology.
- Manuscript review, often called peer review, serves to:
- **Ensure Quality:** Validates the research's methodology, accuracy, and contribution to knowledge, ensuring it meets journal standards (e.g., American Educational Research Journal).

MANUSCRIPT REVIEW

- **Enhance Credibility:** Filters out flawed or biased research, maintaining trust in published findings, critical for international guidelines or global educational policies.
- **Improve Clarity:** Identifies unclear or incomplete sections, improving readability and impact for academicians, teachers or data scientists or policymakers in Nigeria.
- **Advance Knowledge:** Ensures research addresses gaps and contributes to the adoption of AI in educational sector.

Steps in Manuscript Review

- The manuscript review process involves structured steps, typically guided by journal guidelines. As a reviewer, you'd follow these:

Accepting the Invitation:

- Journals invite experts based on expertise. Check for conflicts of interest (e.g., knowing the authors) and confirm availability (reviews often take 2–4 hours).

- **Reading the Manuscript:**

- Skim the abstract, introduction, and conclusion to understand the research's purpose, then read thoroughly to assess methodology, results, and discussion.

Steps in Manuscript Review

- **Evaluating Key Components:**

- Introduction: Does it justify the research gap

- Methodology: Is the design robust (e.g., appropriate sample size or the technology appraoch reproducible)

- Results: Are findings clear, supported by data, and free of overinterpretation?

- Discussion: Does it link findings to practice

- References: Are sources current and relevant

- **Providing Feedback:**
- Write a structured review with:
- Summary: Briefly restate the paper’s purpose and findings.
- Major Comments: Highlight strengths (e.g., robust data) and weaknesses (e.g., unclear methods).
- Minor Comments: Note formatting, grammar, or citation issues.
- Recommendation: Suggest accept, minor revisions, major revisions, or reject, based on journal criteria.
- **Submitting the Review:**
- Use the journal’s online platform (e.g., Editorial Manager) to submit your review, ensuring confidentiality and timeliness (typically 2–4 weeks).