**General Characteristics of Research**

Cook has emphasised the following characteristics of research in his description:

− It is an honest and exhaustive process.

− The facts are studied with understanding.

− The facts are discovered in the light of a problem. Research is problem- centred.

− The findings are valid and verifiable.

− Research work should contribute new knowledge in that field (Cited in Singh, 2006).

Leedy has insisted on that research has many discrete characteristics. These characteristics comprise the particular approach to a probing for truth. These latter include the following:

• Research begins with a question in the mind of the researcher.

• Research demands the identification of a problem, stated in clear, unambiguous terms.

• Research requires a plan.

• Research deals with the main problem through appropriate sub-problems.

• Research seeks direction through appropriate hypotheses and is based upon obvious assumption.

• Research deals with facts.

• Research is circular (Cited in Leeds, 1980).

The following characteristics may be gathered from the definitions of “research”:

• It gathers new knowledge or data from primary or first-hand sources.

• It places emphasis upon the discovery of general principles.

• It is an extent systematic and accurate investigation.

• It uses certain valid data gathering devices.

• It is logical and exact.

• The researcher eliminates personal feelings and preferences.

• Research is patient and unhurried activity

• Research is carefully recorded and reported.

• Conclusions and generalisations are arrived at carefully and cautiously (Singh,2006).

Assignment 6: Some people consider research as a voyage of discovery of new knowledge. It comprises the creation of ideas and the generation of new knowledge that leads to new and improved insights and the development of new materials, devices, products, and processes. Explain describing the characteristics of a research.