**1.** **Definitions**

Research purifies human life and improves its quality. It is a search for knowledge scientifically and systematically as well. In other words, it is a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic. Accordingly, it is the voyage of discovery and the quest for answers to unsolved problems.

* According to dictionaries:
1. The Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English:

 “Research is a careful investigation or inquiry especially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge.”

1. the Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences:

“ Research is 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.”

c) Merriam Webster:

“Research is a studious inquiry or examination especially an investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws.”

d) Oxford Dictionary:

“Research is the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.”

e) Collins English Dictionary:

“Research is work that involves studying something and trying to discover facts about it.”

**Synonyms:** investigation, study, inquiry, analysis

* According to some scholars:

 There are several definitions of research, proposed by famous authors and scholars of their time. In fact, the basic meaning and the context of these definitions are same. The difference lies only in the way the author has undertaken research in his discipline.

1. According to Shuttleworth (2008),

“The definition of research includes any gathering of data, information and facts for the advancement of knowledge.”

1. According to Creswell (2008),

“Research is a process of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase our understanding of a topic or issue”.

(It consists of three steps: Pose a question, collect data to answer the question, and present an answer to the question.)

1. According to Mouly

"Research is the systematic and scholarly application of the scientific method interpreted in its broadest sense, to the solution of social […] problems; conversely, any systematic study designed to promote the development of social studies as a science can be considered research”.

1. According to Leeds (1980)

“Research is the manner in which we solve knotty problems in an attempt to push back the frontiers of human ignorance. Research is ultimately a way of thinking. It is a way of looking at accumulated fact so that a collection of data speaks to the mind of the researcher”.

1. According to Cornell

“To be sure the best research is that which is reliable, verifiable, and exhaustive, so that it provides information in which we have confidence. The main point here is that research is, literally speaking, a kind of human behaviour, an activity in which people engage”.

1. According to Woody (cited in Kothari, 1990)

“Research is a carefully inquiry or examination in seeking facts or principles; a diligent investigation to ascertain something; and this definition makes clear the fact that research is not merely a search for truth, but a prolonged, intensive, purposeful search. It constitutes a method for the discovery of truth which is really a method of critical thinking; it comprises defining and redefining problems; formulating hypotheses or suggested solutions; collecting, organizing and evaluating data; making decisions and reaching conclusions to determine whether they fit the formulating hypotheses”.

g) According to Cook (cited in Singh, 2006)

"Research is an honest, exhaustive, intelligent searching for fact and their meanings or implications with reference to a given problem. The product of findings of a given piece of research should be an authentic, verifiable, and contribution to knowledge in the field studied”.

 **Assignment 1:** Discuss and explain each citation

 **Assignment 2:** From those definitions, summarize your own definition of research.

**One possible answer:** Research is, thus, 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 generalization and the formulation of a theory is also research.