

Quantitative research relates two or more variables or comparing two or more groups, as is typically found in quantitative research. It is an exploration of relationships or comparisons among ideas. It is a process of collecting and analysing numerical data. It is an approach which helps researchers make predictions, and test hypotheses.

Quantitative research can be used for three research methods:

Descriptive: it is a method of analysis that presents a summary of the variables in the study

Correlational: it is a method of analysis that seeks to find relationships between variables

Experimental: it is a method to examine a cause-effect relationship between variables.

Writing about the purpose of the quantitative study

A quantitative purpose statement begins with identifying the proposed major variables in a study (independent, intervening, dependent)

Structure

The purpose of this _____ (experiment? survey?) study is (was? will be?) to test the theory of _____ that _____ (describes outcomes) or (compares? relates?) the _____ (independent variable) to _____ (dependent variable), controlling for _____ (control variables) for _____ (participants) at _____ (the research site). The independent variable(s) _____ will be defined as _____ (provide a definition). The dependent variable(s) will be defined as _____ (provide a definition), and the control and intervening variable(s), _____, (identify the control and intervening variables) will be defined as _____ (provide a definition)

Purpose statement in a survey study

DeGraw (1984) completed a doctoral dissertation in the field of education on the topic of educators working in adult correctional institutions. Under a section titled “**Statement of the Problem,**” he advanced the purpose of the study:

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between personal characteristics and the job motivation of certified educators who taught in selected state adult correctional institutions in the United States. Personal characteristics were divided into background information about the respondent (i.e., institutional information, education level, prior training, etc.) and information about the respondents’ thoughts of changing jobs. The examination of background information was important to this study because it was hoped it would be possible to identify characteristics and factors contributing to significant differences in mobility and motivation. The second part of the study asked the respondents to identify those motivational factors of concern to them. Job motivation was defined by six general factors identified in the educational work components study (EWCS) questionnaire (Miskel & Heller, 1973). These six factors are: potential for personal challenge and development; competitiveness; desirability and reward of success; tolerance for work pressures; conservative security; and willingness to seek reward in spite of uncertainty vs. avoidance. (pp. 4–5)

Discussion

This statement included several components of a good purpose statement. It was presented in a separate section, it used the word relationship, terms were defined, and the sample was specified. Further, from the order of the variables in the statement, one can clearly identify the independent variable and the dependent variable.

References

Creswell, J.W. (2014). *Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed methods approaches*. (5th ed) SAGE.

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