

Level: Master 1 (Didactics)

Module: Methodology in Assessment and Testing

The Case Study

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The Case Study

- The case study is a research method that enables researchers to make generalization and draw conclusions about a particular instance. It helps to explain the reasons behind a specific issue and supply suggestions. There are various types of case studies.

Kinds of Case Studies

Kinds of Case Study depending on the Research Objectives:

This group embodies descriptive, explanatory and exploratory case studies.

- ***The descriptive case study*** seeks to describe the studied phenomenon. It focuses on the particular features of a specific issue.
- ***The explanatory case study*** explores the reasons of a problem.
- ***The exploratory case study*** investigates a specific problem to seek the way of improving the existing situation.

Kinds of Case Studies

Types of Case Study according to the Number of Cases:

This category involves single and multiple case studies.

- ***The single case study*** concerns one case. There are two kinds of single case studies: intrinsic and instrumental. *The intrinsic* case study attempts to understand the studied case without giving importance to the generalization of the results. *The instrumental* case study aims at generalizing the research findings.
- ***The multiple case study*** which is also called the collective case study focuses on comparing multiple cases in one research work.

Kinds of Case Studies

Kinds of Case study in terms of the Unit of Analysis:

This group entails holistic and embedded case studies.

- ***The holistic case Study*** has one unit of analysis.
- ***The embedded case study*** implies that sub-units of analysis are designed to supply data about different features of the studied case.

Case Study Design

- The design of a case study should be based on the following elements: The elicitation of the research questions; the identification of the hypotheses and the specification of the unit of analysis.

Case Study Design

- The research questions should help to specify the particular aspects of the studied issue. The most frequent questions that are usually asked in a case study are: ‘why?’ and ‘how?’
- A hypothesis implies the researcher’s prediction about the causes of a particular problem. It represents the researcher’s answer of the research question.

Case Study Design

- The case study investigates a single phenomenon within a specific population. It deals with a sample that is selected from the target population. The sample represents the unit of analysis.

Case Study Design

- The sample should be selected according to certain criteria including time management, the type of the research tools and the accessibility of the informants.

References

- Cohen, Louis, Manion, Lawrence, and Morrison, Keith. (2007). *Research Methods in Education*. New York: Routledge.
- Yin, Robert K. (2003). *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*. USA: Sage Publications, Inc.