

Planning of Research in Third World Countries:

Lecture 3 –Date. 02.10.13

Introduction

This lecture is intended provide bases for a researchers who are supposed to start research in an area, region or culture in a developing country other than the one in which they grew up, or with which they are not familiar

Good Book to read



Technical Aspects

The research proposal contains all the technical details, in conformity to that researcher has to implement the research. However, in implementation of the research, the logistics also play a significant role.

Logistic Aspects

1. Selecting a field location

- Reading about the area
- Having a local co-researcher
- Google map
- Other maps available (after going to the country)

2. Development contacts with partners

Village or community can be approached systematically by developing partnership with important people and institutions. In order to use them some mechanism has to be developed before the field research.

Relevant ministry or ministries:

Universities

NGOs:

CBOs

3. Finding a RA/interpreter

Interpretation is a rather free lance job in developing countries when it comes to research. Most occasions university undergraduate, postgraduate student who have language capabilities happen to work as interpreters to foreign researchers. Language knowledge is not sufficient but several other characteristics have to be considered. Nancy Schweda Nicholson's article on personality characteristics of interpreter trainees give a good insight on interpretation

(<http://www.openstarts.units.it/dspace/bitstream/10077/2476/1/08.pdf>)

What then is the 'typical' interpreter like?

- A self-reliant,
- Articulate
- Extrovert,
- Quick and intelligent,
(a jack of all trades)

Henderson (1980)

4. Being aware of regulations and local customs

As foreign researcher develops contacts with local bodies he or she gradually becomes familiar to regulations. However, becoming familiar to local customs is still challenging. Unless getting used to local customs people might get offend and it may obstruct to build a good rapport between researcher and researched. This may be obstruct in collecting accurate data. RA's help and good reading about local culture is very important in this regard. This is very important for the persons who carry out lengthy research, such as ethnographic research.

5. Safety concerns

Social concerns

Violence, robberies, cheating, animal attacks, deceases, accidents

Natural concerns

Weather extremes

Diseases

6. Timing

- Holidays: National holidays and major social cultural and political events which hinder into research activities, e.g., charismas time, new year, election time period, India-Durga puja October 10-14, 2013. Whole festival goes around 15 days**
- Nepal –holi Feb/March- Aug-Sep, Festival fever period**
- Regional events: Kandy pageant,**
- Harvesting periods**
- Weather pattern: Some geographical locations can have serious problems related to rainy period having floods. Weather forecast could be a guidance for planning.**

India- Durga puja



Nepal Holi Festival



Kandy pageant- Sri Lanka

