

1.2. Understanding Research in social sciences – The Department of Education defines research as follows: Research is defined as the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it leads to new and creative outcomes –M Stephenson and D Slesinger defined research in the Encyclopedia of Social Sciences as “The manipulation of things, concepts or symbols for the purpose of generalizing to extend, correct or verify knowledge, whether that knowledge aids in construction of theory or in the practice of an art. Research is an organized and systematic way of finding answers to questions” Systematic because there is a definite set of procedures and steps which you will follow. There are certain things in the research process which are always done in order to get the most accurate results. – Social science research is a process of enquiry into social issues and social problems in the society. Using social science research new knowledge is being derived and new information is obtained through a systematic and scientific procedure. – Social science research is the step-by-step manner of deriving new data on any social subject that affects man in society. Social research gives insight into social occurrence(s) making researchers understand why, when, where, what and how social life is being constructed and reconstructed daily. Through social science research the complex nature of society is being understood because social science research provides insight for the sustenance or displacement of preconceived realities. – Social science research is a strategic process employed by researchers to challenge existing knowledge, based on new findings that supersede prior knowledge on social reality