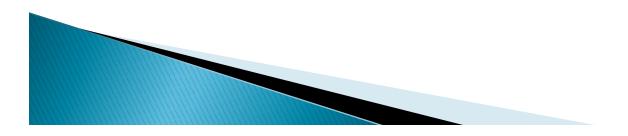
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CASE STUDY METHOD B.A. Part-3(Hons.) Paper-6 Edu.psy.



Case Study- Definition

- Case studies are in-depth investigations of a single person, group, event or community. Typically, data are gathered from a variety of sources and by using several different methods e.g. observation & interview.
- It refers to the collection and presentation of detailed information about a particular participant or small group, frequently including the accounts of subjects themselves.



CONT...

- The information is mainly biographical and relates to events in the individual's past (i.e. retrospective), as well as to significant events which are currently occurring in his or her everyday life.
- The case study is not itself a research method, but researchers select methods of data collection and analysis that will generate material suitable for case studies.



DESIGN

SINGLE-CASE DESIGN-

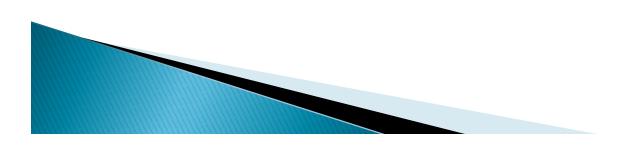
It is where events are limited to a single occurrence. However, the drawback of this design is its inability to provide a generalizing conclusion, in particular when the events are rare.



DESIGN CONT..

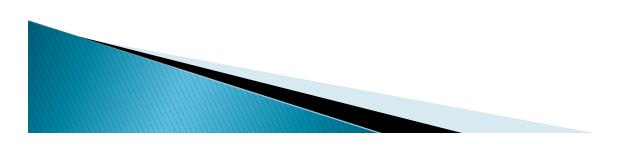
MULTIPLE- CASE DESIGN-

It can be adopted with real-life events that show numerous sources of evidence through replication rather than sampling logic.



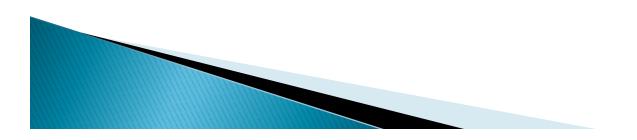
TYPES-

- I. Explanatory
- 2.Exploratory
- 3.Descriptive
- 4.Multiple case study
- 5.Intrinsic
- 6.Instrumental
- 7.Collective



Advantages-

- Stimulating new research- A case study can sometimes highlight extraordinary behaviour, which can stimulate new research.
- Contradicting established theory– Case studies may sometimes contradict established psychological theories.



Advantages cont..

- It is mostly descriptive- Highly detailed, trying to collect as much data as possible, including the contexts.
- Giving new insight into phenomena or experience. Because case studies are so rich in information, they can give insight into phenomena, which we could not gain in any other way.



Advantages cont..

- Because of their in-depth, multi-sided approach case studies often shed light on aspects of human thinking and behaviour that would be unethical to study in other ways.
- This method is important for psychologists who adopt a holistic point of view (i.e. humanistic psychologists).



Disadvantages-

Replication not possible- Uniqueness of data means that they are valid for only one person. While this is strength in some forms of research, it is a weakness for others, because it means that findings cannot be replicated and so some types of reliability measures are very low.



Disadvantages cont..

- The researcher's own subjective feelings may influence the case study (researcher bias).
- Clinical case studies the researcher's own interpretations can influence the way that the data are collected.

