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Case Study Method

B.A.Part-3

Psychology Hons.

Paper -7

(Clinical Psychology)

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.

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-

- 1. 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.

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.