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RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS


B. A. Part – 2

Psychology (Hons.)

Hypothesis

A research hypothesis, in its plural form “hypotheses,” is a specific, testable prediction about the anticipated results of a study, established at its outset.

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- According to McGuigan, “A testable statement of a potential relationship between two or more variables is called hypothesis.”

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- “ A hypothesis is a conjectural statement of the relationship between two or more variables. Hypotheses are always in declarative sentence form and they relate either generally or specifically variables to variables.”
Kerlinger.

Characteristics of hypothesis

- Following are the characteristics of the hypothesis:
- The hypothesis should be clear and precise to consider it to be reliable.
- If the hypothesis is a relational hypothesis, then it should be stating the relationship between variables.
- The hypothesis must be specific and should have scope for conducting more tests.
- The way of explanation of the hypothesis must be very simple and it should also be understood that the simplicity of the hypothesis is not related to its significance.

Types

Simple Hypothesis

- It shows a relationship between one dependent variable and a single independent variable.

Complex Hypothesis

- It shows the relationship between two or more dependent variables and two or more independent variables.

Alternative Hypothesis

- The research hypothesis is often called the alternative or experimental hypothesis in experimental research.
- It typically suggests a potential relationship between two key variables: the independent variable, which the researcher manipulates, and the dependent variable, which is measured based on those changes.
- The alternative hypothesis states a relationship exists between the two variables being studied.

Null Hypothesis

The null hypothesis states no relationship exists between the two variables being studied (one variable does not affect the other). There will be no changes in the dependent variable due to manipulating the independent variable.

It states results are due to chance and are not significant in supporting the idea being investigated.

Non-directional Hypothesis

- A non-directional hypothesis, also known as a two-tailed hypothesis, predicts that there is a difference or relationship between two variables but does not specify the direction of this relationship.
- It merely indicates that a change or effect will occur without predicting which group will have higher or lower values.

Directional hypothesis

- A directional (one-tailed) hypothesis predicts the nature of the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable. It predicts in which direction the change will take place. (i.e., greater, smaller, less, more)
- It specifies whether one variable is greater, lesser, or different from another, rather than just indicating that there's a difference without specifying its nature.