

# Research Problem

- What is a research problem?
  - ❖ The term ‘problem’ means a question or issue to be examined.
  - ❖ Research Problem refers to some difficulty / need which a researcher experiences in the context of either theoretical or practical situation and wants to obtain a solution for the same.

# HOW DO WE KNOW WE HAVE A RESEARCH PROBLEM?

- ❖ Customer complaints
- ❖ Conversation with company employees    Observation of inappropriate behavior or conditions in the firm
- ❖ Deviation from the business plan
- ❖ Success of the firm's competitor's
  - Relevant reading of published material (trends, regulations)
  - Company records and reports

# Identification and Selection of Research problem

- This step involves identification of few problems and selection of one out of them, after evaluating the alternatives against certain selection criteria.

# Sources of Problem

- Reading
- Academic Experience
- Daily Experience
- Exposure to Field Situations
- Consultations
- Brainstorming
- Research

# Criteria of Selection

- The selection of one appropriate researchable problem out of the identified problems requires evaluation of those alternatives against certain criteria. They are:
  - Internal / Personal Criteria – Researcher's Interest, Researcher's Competence, Researcher's own Resource: finance and time.
  - External Criteria or Factors – Researcheability of the problem, Importance and Urgency, Novelty of the Problem, Feasibility, Facilities, Usefulness and Social Relevance, Research Personnel.

# Definition and Formulation of Problem

- Formulation is the process of refining the research ideas into research questions and objectives.
- Formulation means translating and transforming the selected research problem/topic/idea into a scientifically researchable question. It is concerned with specifying exactly what the research problem is.

Problem definition or Problem statement is a clear, precise and succinct statement of the question or issue that is to be investigated with the goal of finding an answer or solution.

There are two ways of stating a problem:

Posting question / questions

Making declarative statement / statements



# Criteria of Good Research Problem

- ❑ Clear and Unambiguous
- ❑ Empirical
- ❑ Verifiable
- ❑ Interesting
- ❑ Novel and Original
- ❑ Availability of Guidance