

A CHALLENGE TO STUDENTS OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT

One of the challenges faced by students in education and social sciences is that they state research problems as if they are stating a purpose of research (statement of intention). The work deals with understanding research problems and how they can be stated. Problems are based on given situations, conditions or state of affairs which posed a challenge or question, for which the researcher is convinced that the answer has never been known or conclusively found. By collecting and interpreting relevant data, the researcher finds answer to the question(s). It explains some sources of research problems, offering examples of problem statements, and outlining criteria for testing if an identified problem is researchable or worthwhile. Problem statement can be evaluated using some criteria. This should assist students in education and social sciences understand the aspects of problem statement at the onset of their thesis.

KEY WORDS: Statement of problem, Basic research, Applied research, Action research, Problem formulation, declarative form, interrogative form, Correlational, Experimental research