

**COURSE-M.A.EDUCATION**

**SEMESTER-4th**

**TOPIC- APPROACHES OF RESEARCH**

## Positivism

***approach to the study of society that relies specifically on scientific evidence, such as experiments and statistics, to reveal a true nature of how society operates***



### Characteristics of Positivism:

Social events also take place based on some laws in the same way as natural events occur. Thus, these laws can be identified with the help of scientific methods.

- Positivism is related to the scientific point of view as well as scientific methodology.
- Positivism keeps itself away from religious and philosophical ideas.
- Positivism is a utility science and believes in the form that knowledge gained through positivism can be used as a means of social reconstruction.

### Scientifically, Positivism Relies on The Following Aspects of Science:

1. Science is deterministic as it explains the cause-and-effect relationships.
2. Science is mechanistic as researchers develop hypotheses to be proved or disproved via the application of specific research methods.
3. Science uses methods such as the selection of sample, measurements, analysis and reaching conclusions about the hypothesis.
4. Science deals with empiricism, where it is assessed as objective, as seen or measured. Science must be value-free.

### Drawbacks Of Positivism:

- Positivism as epistemology is related to the accompanying arrangement of impediments. Positivism depends on involvement as a legitimate source of knowledge and information.
- A wide range of procedures can be seen as a specific variety of activities of people or connections between people.
- Appropriation of positivism in business studies and different examinations can be reprimanded for dependence on the norm.
- Sometimes positivism is a rejection of metaphysics. It is a place that holds the objective of learning which is simply to describe the phenomena that we experience.

### POST - POSITIVISM

### Key Features:

- As we discussed, positivism is associated with quantitative research strategies.
- There is one specific perspective on how research ought to be directed, which suggests that we should carry out research in social sciences in ways that are like the methods within the natural sciences.
- Two people observe the same event but understand it differently, based upon their own experiences and beliefs.
- Objectivity can be achieved by using multiple measurements, observations and triangulating the data to gain a clearer comprehension of what is going on as a rule.

Knowledge is relative to

time and place

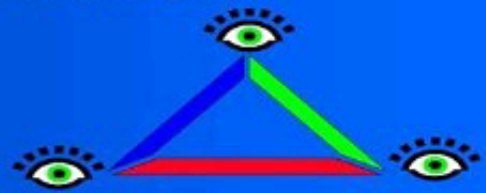


- It is important to note that post-positivists share a lot in common with positivists, but most of the research approaches and practices in social science today fit better into the post-positivist category.
- Since the inception of the 21st century, the focus of research has shifted from 'reality' to 'critical reality'. Physicists like Werner Heisenberg and Niels Bohr focused on this reality.
- The emphasis was turned away from absolute certainty to probability.
- Now, the scientist was portrayed as a person who constructs knowledge, instead of just passively noting the laws of nature and no matter how faithfully the scientist adheres to scientifically method research, research outcomes are neither totally objective nor unquestionably certain.
- This approach was called post-positivism, where it describes a less strict form of positivism
- Post positivists support the idea that social scientists and natural scientists share the same goals for research and employ similar methods of investigation.
- It tends to be distinguished from positivism as indicated by whether the attention is on hypothesis verification(positivism) or on theory misrepresentation(post-positivism).

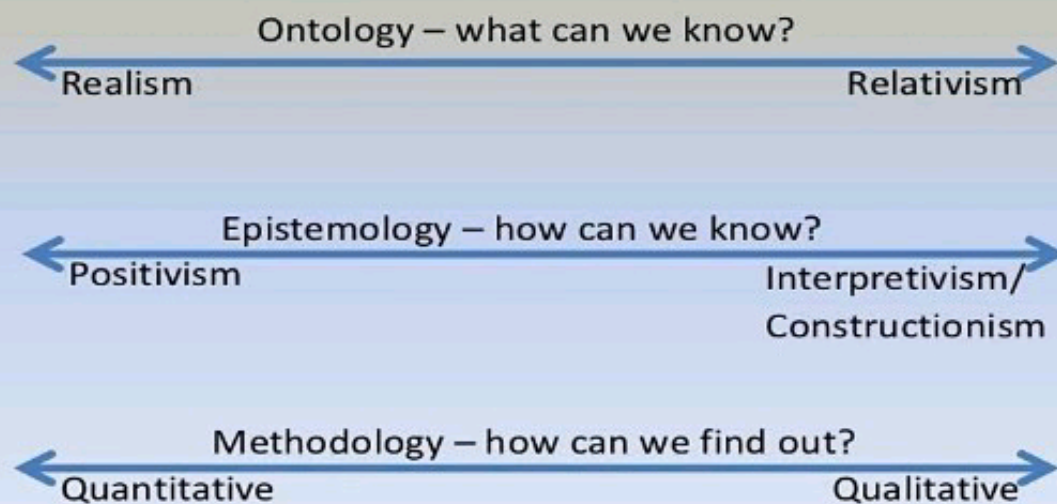


## A Post-positivist View of Research

- Similarity between common sense and science
- NATURAL SELECTION model of knowing
- MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES and TRIANGULATION



## Research as continuum



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### Research as continuum

**Ontology** – what can we know?

Realism ----- Relativism

**Epistemology** – how can we know?

Positivism----- Interpretivism/ Constructivism

**Methodology** – how can we find out?

Quantitative----- Qualitative

	POSITIVISM	POST-POSITIVISM
<b>ONTOLOGY</b>	Naïve Realism: reality is driven by unchangeable natural laws. The way things are: time & context-free. Some take the form of cause-effect law (All actions have consequences and produce SPECIFIC results).	Critical Realism: reality is seen in a wide perception-critical examination to facilitate understanding. To watch very closely and consider the factors that contribute to certain findings.
<b>EPISTEMOLOGY</b>	Dualist and Objectivist Investigator & Investigated object: INDEPENDENT ENTITIES. Values & bias-free: to ensure the findings remain the same when replicated	Modified Dualist/objectivist Does not involve dualism. Objectivity remains. Replicated findings: Conditional upon falsification.
<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	Experimental & manipulative Questions/hypotheses: in a propositional form and needs to be tested for verification (experiment). Manipulation: conditions that can be confounding – controlled-prevent influenced outcomes.	Modified experimental/manipulative Focus: falsify hypotheses, redress the internal critiques by doing inquiry in a natural setting, collecting situational information, etc.