

Paper –Project Study

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How to Explain your Research Problem for the Project Study

A research problem is a specific issue, difficulty, contradiction, or gap in knowledge that you will aim to address in your research. You might look for practical problems aimed at contributing to change, or theoretical problems aimed at expanding knowledge.

Identify a broad Research Problem Area (Problem of the Study)

We can identify a Research Problem by reading reports, following up on previous research such as Literature Review, and talking to people who work in the relevant field or organization.

Mainly two approaches to Identify Research Problem

1. Practical Research Problems
2. Theoretical research problems

1. Practical Research Problems

We should look for

- Issues with performance or efficiency in an organization
- Processes that could be improved in an institution
- Areas of concern among practitioners in a field
- Difficulties faced by specific groups of people in society

Examples of practical research problems

- a. Voter turnout in region X has been decreasing, in contrast to the rest of the country.
- b. Department A of Company B has a high staff turnover rate, affecting productivity and team cohesion.
- c. Non-profit organization Y faces a funding gap that means some of its programs will have to be cut.

2. Theoretical research problems

Theoretical research focuses on expanding knowledge and understanding rather than directly contributing to change. You can identify a research problem by reading recent research, theory and debates on your topic to find a gap in what is currently known about it. You might look for:

- a. A phenomenon or context that has not been closely studied
- b. A contradiction between two or more perspectives
- c. A situation or relationship that is not well understood
- d. A troubling question that has yet to be resolved