

Role of Field Work

Fieldwork is one of the unique attributes of Geography as a discipline. It involves learning experiences OUTSIDE the classroom. But fieldwork (Collection of data, Household survey, Site based Sampling etc) can be expensive, time consuming and in some area cases invasive. Despite these hurdles why have researchers/^{students} adopted, Field Research as a valid Methodological approach →

1) Conceptual Development → Fieldwork strengthens the curriculum of Geography by promoting "Geographical Knowledge & understanding". It is the paramount significance for the Subject matter of ① Geography, as it enables to bridge the divide between the classroom ② & the outside world and helps Student's ^{cognitive} understanding ③ of geographical phenomena & related processes. Lastly,

2) Skill Development → Provides real research to Grassroot level. ④
 ↓ while doing so, ↓
~~these includes~~ ^{includes} Enquiry skills for geographical phenomena such as,

- Observational skills,
- The problem of Assessment skills,
- the data analysis skills, (GIS, GPS etc)
- The sketching & the mapping skills,
- the photographic & the videographic skills,
- The Investigatives & analytical skills, etc.

So, by appealing to different learning styles, FW also enables students to become better abround learners.

37 Opening new frontiers of Knowledge → Due to the exposure of the local & contextual reality Fieldwork puts (researchers) students in, → Contact with a given situation, in given time & place, that can open their minds and open new lines of geographical

thinking,

→ It can provide an empirical basis to challenge & question the grand theories & narratives + conventional wisdom, and lead to a new theoretical proposition @ a Hypothesis.

→ It gratify the various interest which need to students,

- Society's interest at large,
- the Community that is target of the research/FW.
- the person @ team undertaking the research/FW.
- Academic interests & personal experience. etc.

47 Social & Personal Development → Fieldwork has immense potential to develop student's sensitivity to the respective field & appreciation of a wide range of different environments,

- It can help to develop a respect & gratitude for the environment & facilitate interactive learning.
- It enables students to act as a bridge for being an important means of Social Inclusion.

- Fieldwork can foster student's confidence & resilience building, develop soft skills such as, leadership skills, teamwork & the communication skills etc

- Fieldwork enables students to develop their understanding of different perspectives on environmental, social, political, cultural & overall geographical issues in wider, socio-economic-cultural & ecological aspects for sustainable development.

Understand the Context & Data → Fieldwork based

result provide a deeper understanding of the local situation, enabling the researcher to identify, analyse & formulate strategies for resolution in context to the problem through,

due to Newspapers, Social Media etc

fill an information gap

accuracy of data collection

Overcoming lack of data

checking quality of data

It might be inadequate to draw light & gain useful insights on its

• through this scientific & systematic analysis is possible.

(A) through cross check methods.

eg → Household Survey can be checked against information from other respondents,

- Field observation,
- locally available written records.

Cause, occurrence, pattern, distribution, development & possible resolution.

It determine the validity of data & enable the researchers to select sensible questions & avoid sensitive question, that may be out of the context for study.

(B) The Student (Researcher) should first try & bridge the GAP of Insiders - Outsiders phenomena through useful participation in the local activities & contextual behaviour in order to improve the quality of data.

Thus FRI enables students to extend theoretical learning through direct observation & experience promoting the idea of scientific Research & Training.