

Observation

Observation is one of the most important & most used methods in social sciences. It is an excellent tool for collecting data in variety of situations.

Observation are useful to researchers/Students who wish to understand more about the situation under study.

Study. Also

IMPORTANCE OF OBSERVATION

Fieldwork is particularly effective for making observations at MICRO to Meso scales. In this case the observation of phenomena & events is central to Geography's concern for accurately representing the complexity of the Real world.

- It gathering data by observing behaviours, events @ noting physical characteristics in their natural setting.
- It is the "on-the-ground" contact between Researcher & the subject.
- observations helps to identify & guide Relationships with informants, and to learn what is important to the people in the social setting under study.
- It helps in Constitutes appropriate questions which helps in to answer the Research questions.
- observation is used in both qualitative & Quantitative studies.
 eg → In education, Teachers may observe students to determine either the no. of times a behaviour occurs or the activities which participate certain interactions. They help us determine how much time is spent on various activities, verify non-verbal expression (feeling) & determine who interacts with whom.

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- Through observations, Researchers may learn about activities that participants may have difficulty talking about in Interview due to impoliteness or insensitivity.

- They provide an opportunity for researcher to Record in writing what they have learned by taking field notes that can be used at a later time to recall what was observed in the Research setting.

So, observation enables the Researcher to access these aspects of a Geographical & socio-economic settings that may not be visible to the general public. They gives us the opportunity to provide Rich, detailed descriptions of these ~~sets~~ settings in the particular field, improve interpretations and develop new questions to be asked of informants.

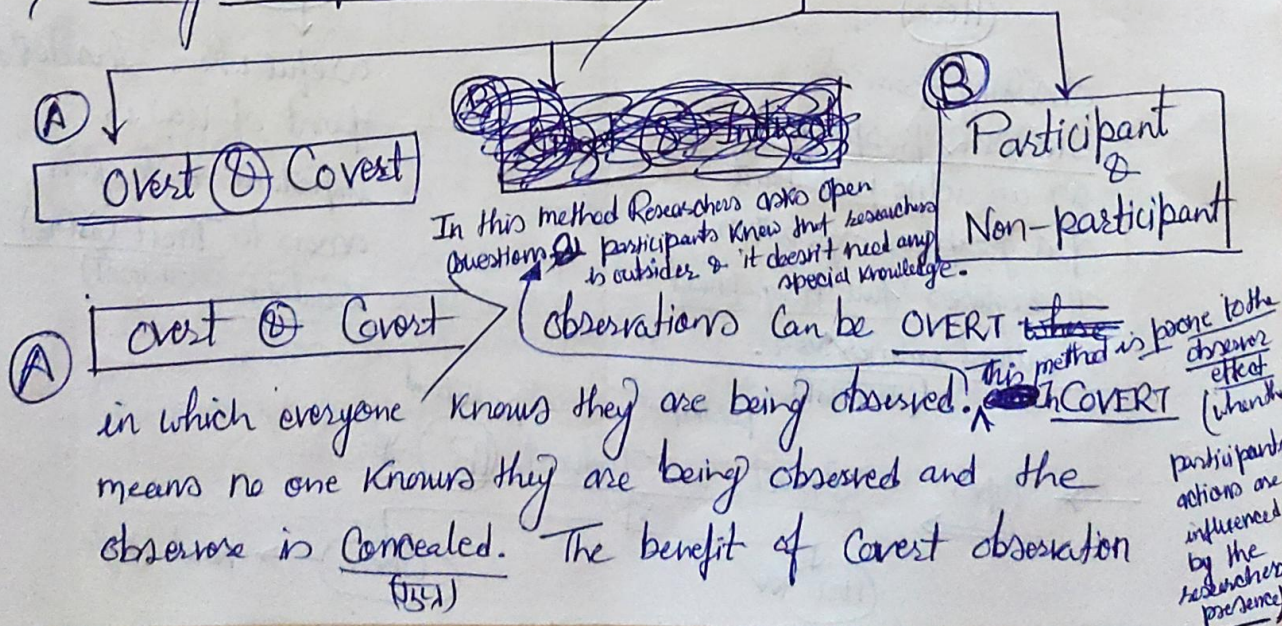
⇒ Limitations of observations ⇒

- Researchers may not always be interested in what happens behind the scenes.
- Researchers may find interpretations of what they observe to be hindered →
 - when key informants are similar, to you (Researcher) or familiar
 - when key informants are community leaders or marginal participants in the culture (gatekeepers, etc. which may limit the people & activities to which you have access)

limit your observation opportunities

- The degree to which Researchers are accepted in the Target Community is determined by how well they perceived by community members. This acceptance is based on Gender, Age, class, Ethnicity & even appearances. (Acceptance is based on whether group members Trust you & feel comfortable with you etc).
- Another Consideration & potential limitation is Researcher BIAS. Researchers needs to be aware of your own biases to properly understand what they are observing. It is important to understand what is going on from the perspective of the participants, which includes genders, culture, ideologies etc.
- Finally, the quality & Contribution of the observations is determined by Researchers Ability to describe what is observed accurately and in detail.

⇒ Types of observations



is that people are more likely to behave naturally if they do not know that they are being observed. The risk is to GOING NATIVE, where the researcher ceases the study & becomes a participant. in the moment of them

How

(B) Direct & Indirect → Direct observation is when we watch ^(looking at the event happening in front of our eyes) interactions, processes & behaviours as they occur (observing a teacher, teaching lesson). Indirect observations are when we watch the results of Interactions, processes & behaviours. It is remote, relying on observations of others & recordings of past events in the form of ^{written descriptions} documentation, videos and so on.

(C) Participant & Non-Participant → These two important types of observation, ^{specifically} done in Geographical research & other social sciences also. They are as follows →

(1) PARTICIPANT observation → In this method Researchers becomes part of the community or society or group ~~and observation~~ & he observes the specific movements, behaviours and jobs of the people under observation.

