

Educational Research

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The purpose is to contribute to knowledge about education and to the practice of education.

The major reason for educational research is to develop new knowledge about teaching, learning, and administration.

Four types of research knowledge: DESCRIPTION, PREDICTION, IMPROVEMENT, AND EXPLANATION.

1. DESCRIPTION: about the description of what is happening at schools based on natural or man-made phenomena--- their form, structure, change over time, relation to other phenomena ...etc.

2. PREDICTION: the ability to predict a phenomenon that will occur at time Y from information available at an earlier time X. For example, to develop knowledge about factors that predict students' success in schools and the world of work.

3. IMPROVEMENT: it is about knowledge that concerns interventions --- programs, curriculum materials, and teaching methods, --- that improves students' learning and some other valued outcome. It is used to improve a valued outcome such as students' learning.

4. EXPLANATION: it is the most important of all in the sense that it subsumes the other three types. A researcher is able to explain a set of phenomena, it means that he can describe, predict, and control the phenomena with a high level of certainty and accuracy.