

FUNCTIONS OF HYPOTHESIS:

While some researchers believe that to conduct a study requires a hypothesis, having a hypothesis is not essential as already mentioned. However, a hypothesis is important in terms of bringing clarity to the research problem. Specifically, a hypothesis serves the following functions:

1. The formulation of a hypothesis provides a study with focus. It tells you what specific aspects of a research problem to investigate.
2. A hypothesis tells you what data to collect and what not to collect, thereby providing focus to the study.
3. As it provides a focus, the construction of a hypothesis enhances objectivity in a study.
4. A hypothesis may enable you to add to the formulation of theory. It enables you to conclude specifically, what is true or what is false.