

TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS:

To test a hypothesis, you need to go through a process that comprises three phases: (1) constructing a hypothesis; (2) gathering appropriate evidence; and (3) analyzing evidence to draw conclusions as to its validity. Figure below shows this process diagrammatically. It is only after analyzing the evidence that you can conclude whether your hunch or hypothesis was true or false.

When concluding about a hypothesis, conventionally, you specifically make a statement about the correctness or otherwise of a hypothesis in the form of 'the hypothesis is true' or 'the hypothesis is false'. It is therefore imperative that you formulate your hypotheses clearly, precisely and in a form that is testable.

In arriving at a conclusion about the validity of your hypothesis, the way you collect your evidence is of central importance and it is therefore essential that your study design, sample, data collection method(s), data analysis and conclusions, and communication of the conclusions be valid, appropriate, and free from any bias.

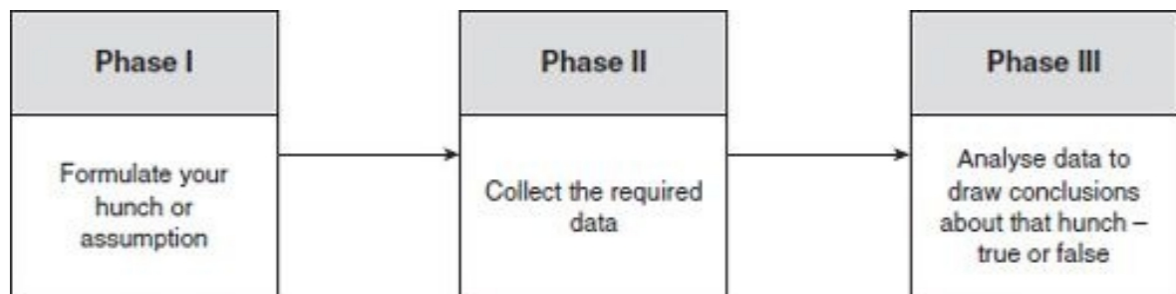


Fig: The process of testing a hypothesis