



Types of Research

Types of research can be looked at from three different perspectives:

1. applications of the findings of the research study;
2. objectives of the study;
3. mode of enquiry used in conducting the study.

The classification of the types of a study on the basis of these perspectives is not mutually exclusive: that is, a research study classified from the viewpoint of 'application' can also be classified from the perspectives of 'objectives' and 'enquiry mode' employed. For example, a research project may be classified as **pure or applied research** (from the perspective of application), as **descriptive, correlational, explanatory or exploratory** (from the perspective of objectives) and as **qualitative or quantitative** (from the perspective of the enquiry mode employed)