

USE OF HISTORICAL METHODS IN EDUCATION RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT

Organisational studies have been using historical methods for a long time. Although in educational research, there are several organizational or community-based studies, there is a lack of use in historical approach. A researcher looks into environmental actors which are new to the environment and complex events are analyzed through historical studies. Thereby, researchers will analyze certain environmental actors and deduce assumptions, eventually leading to some specific interpretations. Since educational pedagogies can be affected by the cultural and situational factors, it is quite important that the researcher looks into the issues in a historical perspective as well along with contemporary factors. There are various studies conducted which had explained the need and relevance, however, the practical applications have been scarce in the field of Education. In the following article, researchers would like to provide a literature analysis of the use and process of historical methods, historical sources. Interpretations history and the steps involved in the historical research are also explained in detail.

KEYWORDS: *Education Research, Historical Methods, Interpretational History, Archival Materials*

INTRODUCTION

The find out about of history is often viewed and studied as a detached endeavor, a quest for statistics through a goal disposition. Historical writing tends to encapsulate a grand narrative, one that explains the events of the past except for marketers or producers of knowledge; each ethnicity and positivistic language typically body such historical writing. Historiography exposes the frames and parameters of historical writing in order to further one's understanding of the occasions in the past. Historiography presents an approach to intervention in the comprehension of and residing in socio-cultural political events. It is the careful study of historical writing and the methods in which historians interpret the past thru more than a few theoretical lenses and methodologies. In the field of education research as well, researchers look into the various past information to understand the factors which effect educational system and style of teaching. However, the importance and significance of historical methods such as oral history, interpretational history have been hardly discussed in the area of education.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To evaluate the interpretation history approach.

- To understand the limitations of Field-based case study research.
- To list the steps involved in historical research.

Definitional View of History Adopted

It has been widely accepted among the organizational researchers that history does matter for understanding organizations and also for analyzing ourselves. Studies have also mentioned about the need of using historical methods in analyzing the organizations. If the research is intended to adopt historical records and timeline, it is quite important that the researcher also explains about the definitional view of history adopted. Researchers can either adopt the descriptive or an interpretative method for conducting historical research. In descriptive forms various elements involved and the interpretative mode explains the relationship between these elements.

The approach adopted in narrative history is different from all other methods. The events are recorded in a non-analytical way and document these events in a story telling pattern. Interrelationships of these events are not explained in detail in narrative history. However, this style of historical study might not suit all researchers (Best & Kahn, 2016). In order to arrive at specific research aim and objectives, interpretational history can also be used. In the interpretational, research method, the researcher can analyze and understand in detail why certain events have taken place, in a particular context and time and as well as the role of actors involved in the event. However, to get an in-depth understanding of players and actors in a specific time period, it is also vital that the events before that time frame have also looked in detail. As per Webster & Mertova(2007) and White (2014), such an approach is becoming very common in the field of social science.

As per Polkinghorne (1995), history can be explained as the process of narrating historical events and facts through a critical perspective and illustrating the actual truth. Methods used in historical studies and scientific studies are quite different. In scientific studies, an experimental method is used to analyze the issue, however, in historical methods, a historian would rely on other researcher's observations and findings. Henceforth, historians are actually testing the authenticity of the records and facts produced by other researchers, thereby it gets subsidize over the usual scientific observation process. It can also be noted that, historians actually revisit the life events that has happened in the past. Henceforth, in historical studies a narrative and descriptive format of data presentation is provided with accurate and scientific analysis (Coffin, 1997). Historical studies are meant for analyzing the past, analyzing the present and also providing some insights into the future, whereby the historians would investigate, records, analyze and interprets the data from the past in a generalised way. So it can be concluded that historical study involves the scientific research application into problems in the past events.

Drawbacks of Interpretational History

Like any other research methods, interpretational history is also limitations. It should also be noted that bringing a distinction between narrative history and interpretation, history, thereby leading to historical method's common feature which is "History is definitely a disagreement never-ending". It is to be referred to that whether it is narrative or interpretational, historic inquire is conditional for an example, historical research are based upon the statistics accessible at the time of the research. There might be situations when greater evidences may additionally emerge as on hand at a later date or may additionally even turn out that evidences that were used for lookup was once both no longer factual or

contained undisclosed biases. Due to the possibility of this quandary researcher can use annual mission reports to other evidences like diaries or biographies written by authoritative individuals, although they explain their experiences in detail most of the time they would be biased from their own perspective. And the possibility of the facts disclosed in the annual mission record can also be minimal when you consider that it was scrutinized by the headquarters of the companies.

Further, histories are concerned with complicated activities which took area in environments very often foreign to the environment to which the historical researcher has grown accustomed. These situations lead the historical researcher to count on certain environmental prerequisites and base interpretations on such assumptions. But this scenario will be convenient to overcome considering the fact that researchers have gone through numerous contemporary and older books and reviews published in the region and abroad two which gave statistics about the social and environmental prerequisites for the period under study.

Interpretations records are additionally inclined to involve reflections of unique non-public information and/or trip and personal price structures of the researcher Hence, historians can also fail to agree upon an interpretation and, if so, the disagreement would be anticipated to contribute to the similarly literature for subsequent evaluation and interpretation. A dialogue of the issue of interpretation records “involves expectations for rationalization and casual analysis”.

The historian searches for patterns of improvement and tries to proceed from a determination (what happened) to contingency (how it happened) basis. Facts are always selected and organized thorough a judgemental manner restrained with the aid of time and are provisional, according to the historian’s grasp of the contextual variables of the period selected.

In positing interpretations, the historic researcher’s assessments of contextual variables are more involved with probability and plausibility rather than causes. Indeed, the time period motives need to be averted in research where the propositions can't be empirically tested

Drawbacks of Field-Based Case Study Research Method

Considerable caution needs to be exercised in generalizing the findings reported under the case approach as it can also be a fallacy to draw generalized conclusions based on the restrained situations examined. In historical lookup the availability of surviving evidence such as enterprise files is in many instances a restriction on sample expansion. Further, where a regional specific sample is involved, the generalization of findings to different locations needs to be undertaken with massive care. For, instance, in interpretational history, sure environmental conditions related to a particular location may additionally no longer have existed or held any relevance to other areas or countries (Portelli, 2017) However, the important intention of this specific case study is no longer to produce knowledge that should be generalized to other contexts in the traditional meaning. The goal is to explore and understand how the chosen case works as a configurative and an ideographic unit of analysis. The appropriateness of the case relies upon its uniqueness, indispensable or extreme in one way or every other and it is the researcher’s key mission to be able to show these aspects to the audience in research. Therefore the specialty of the case justifies the appropriateness of the case study approach.

In a single historic case study of an organization’s surviving business records, the surviving commercial enterprise files might also be substantially incomplete or some of them may also be of uncertain connection to that organization.

If both or each of these prerequisites apply, doubt is forged upon the reliability of the conclusion drawn.

Feasibility of Design

The research design can be possible based on publicly available historical archives. Possibility of involving any human participants, testing can be avoided; hence the requirement of consent forms can also not be required. Information gleaned from the lookup find out about ought to be used for future research on issues that had occurred in the past.

Steps in Historical Research

Historical method being a scientific one, a historical researcher has to pass through stages similar to those of an experimental research worker, such as starting and delimiting the problem and selecting the sources (Mahoney & Rueschemeyer, 2003).

There are three major steps in historical research.

They are:

- Collection of data through primary and secondary sources.
- Criticism of the data, including the internal and external examination.
- Presentation of facts in a readable form involving problems of organization, composition, exposition and interpretation.

The pre-requisite of research is the collection of adequate, accurate and reliable facts about the problem under investigation. The success of research depends on the validity of the information that is collected. Therefore the selection of suitable instruments for collecting relevant data is important.

Research Sources

Archival material

There is an interrelatedness between the nature of the hassle to be investigated- the historic learn about the events in the contexts inside it used to be practiced- and the theories, methods and fabric to be used in the investigation. The archival material is for sure the foundation of any historical case study. There are at least two primary difficulties that occur when working with archival material. These are the issues of selective credit score and selective survival. Business archives are no exception and as such the lookup need to be carried out under this caveat.

Significance of Historical Research in Education Research

It is only these days that there has been developing interest among academics to contain in education history research. After the Academy of Management delivered a separate activity team in Education history more and extra researchers from a range of commercial enterprise lookup areas started out to get worried with training history research. This was additionally strengthened via issuing education history journal. However, it can be viewed that there is a lack of importance given to education history in management, curriculum, which has additionally mirrored on college students pursuing lookup diploma in management history. Since my undertaking used to be a management, historical research, I concept, it would be recommended to add on a part to make clear statements how schooling history research is relevant

and essential in understanding present day management principles and theories.

Although history is viewed a self-discipline unto itself, scholars from a variety of fields are incorporating or presenting historical perspectives in their work. Management is no exception. Recently, various tutorial journals motivate articles that observe the origin, emergence, or context of administrative procedures. Education records as an educational self-discipline is both exceptionally small as measured in terms of active practitioners and of current origin it does revel in an uncommon lineage

CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of the above paper is to escalate the use of the historical methods in the school of Educational research. Although, it has been proven various researchers that past events can lead to current, future assumptions, there is a lack of historical methods used in the field of Education. Steps involved in the historical method are also listed in the current paper. Application of interpretation history and its drawback is discussed in detail. Various archival materials that can be used by the researchers are explained along with the essential characteristics and the feasibility of the study.

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