**Research Recap**

**What is Research and How Does it Benefit individuals and Society?**

**Characteristics of Research**

* Research is a way of finding answers to questions.
* Research is a means of solving problems through generating verifiable data.
* Research is a collection of methods people use to systematically produce knowledge
* The idea of research being systematic is central – logical, adherence to rules, and repetition are primary concepts.
* Research is an exciting process of discovery, but it requires persistence, personal integrity, tolerance for ambiguity, effective interaction with others, and a commitment to quality work.

**Famous Research Quotes:**

“Research is seeing what everybody else has seen and thinking what nobody else has thought.” -Albert Szent-Györgyi (1893- 1986)

“The power of statistics and the clean lines of quantitative research appealed to me, but I fell in love with the richness and depth of qualitative research.” - Brené Brown

“As for the future, your task is not to foresee it, but to enable it.” *-* Antoine de Saint Exupery (1900-1944)

“No research without action, no action without research” - Kurt Lewin (1890-1947)

**Definition of Research:** “The use of scientific methods to transform ideas, hunches, and questions into scientific knowledge.”

Science Produces Reliable Knowledge

Scientists believe that research approaches based on scientific methodology are the most reliable way to derive fact or at least tentative truth for various reasons.

* When carried out appropriately, application of the scientific method is less prone to opinion and bias than other ways of knowing, such as reliance on authority, experience, intuition, and tradition.
* The procedures and data are open to public scrutiny.
* When errors are detected, the system is designed to overcome them. Ideally science is self-correcting, however biases can deter this process.

**Basic vs. Applied Research**

Basic research advances fundamental knowledge about the world.

Applied research is conducted for immediate practical purposes --to solve problems.

**Basic Research and Advancing Fundamental Knowledge**

* Gathering information to understand a phenomenon.
* Knowledge for the sake of knowledge.
* The source of most new scientific ideas and ways of thinking about the world.
* Exploratory, descriptive, or explanatory.

Basic research does often lack practical value in the short-term, but it provides a foundation of knowledge and understanding that may later become generalizable to many policy areas, problems, and areas of study.

Really big breakthroughs in understanding and significant advances in knowledge usually come from basic research. For example, today’s computers could not exist without pure research in math conducted over a century ago.

**Examples of Basic Research Questions**

* Does the experience of reproductive loss increase women’s risk for depression in the short and long-term?
* Does stress increase the likelihood of succumbing to pressure from others when decision-making?
* How does alcohol ingestion impact the brain and parenting behavior?

**Applied Research: To Solve Immediate Practical Problems**

Theory is less central to applied research and it is frequently descriptive, rather than explanatory. Whereas the consumers of basic research tend to be the scientific community, the consumers of applied research are practitioners such as teachers, counselors, caseworkers, and decision makers, such as managers, committees, and officials.

People employed by business, government agencies, social service agencies, health organizations, and educational institutions conduct applied research.

Basic research is more likely to be conducted at universities and at research institutes.

**Examples of Applied Research Questions**

* Do waiting periods for abortion result in more satisfaction with decisions?
* Are relationships ever enhanced by reproductive loss?
* Is poverty linked to miscarriage?

How Reading and Understanding Research Benefits the Individual

* Expands Knowledge
* Exercises the Mind and Fosters Creativity
* Liberates One from the False Claims of Others.
* Develops Critical Thinking, Memory, and Problem Solving
* Builds Credibility

**The Importance of Research to Society**

Research plays a central role in human life, through innovations in healthcare, education, parenting, industry, institutions, marketing, technology, and social policy. In fact, research plays a role in virtually all aspects of our lives.

Scientific investigations provide data to address problems efficiently, expand awareness, and advance understanding of the world we live in.