

COLLECTION OF DATA

Introduction

In this topic we will discuss about (I) Sources of data (ii) Methods of collecting data. But firstly we will discuss why we should collect data. For the purpose of economics data collection means to understand, analyze and explain socio-economic problem.

There are two sources of data:

1. Primary Source
2. Secondary source.

Primary Source: Primary Source of data means collection of data from its source of origin. It offers quantitative information of statistical study. Data collected for our own purpose from beginning to end are called Primary Data. We also can say that Primary Data is always original. For example pocket allowances, family income, education status, family members etc... all are the examples of Primary Data.

Secondary data: Another name of this data is known as second hand data. Which have been already collected? In other words we can also say that data collected by other person is also known Secondary Data. For example data relating to share which are annually declared by shares market brokers.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DATA



- **DIFFERENCE IN ORIGINALITY:** Primary Data are original because it collected by own investigator. Other hand we can say that Secondary Data collected by other person and it was not original.
- **Suitability of objectives:** Primary Data are always collected for specific objective. Therefore we can say that we don't need to make adjustment on data. But Secondary Data collected by other person so, we have to make adjustment on this according to objective.

Cost of collection: Primary Data arte costlier because term, money and efforts involved than the secondary data because Primary Data collected by their origin. But other hand we can say that Secondary Data is collected by other source which was already collected by some other purpose.

EXAMPLE OF AN IDEAL QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Student's Name.....
2. Age.....
3. Faculty.....Art/Commerce/Science
4. Name of school/college.....
5. Father's name and address.....
6. Father's Occupation.....Income.....
7. Income (if any) of other members in the family.....
8. Monthly income received by the student
 - a. From the family.....
 - b. Personal earning.....
 - c. Scholarship.....
 - d. Others.....
9. Monthly Expenditure of the Student



Items of Expenditure	Amount of Expenditure
a. School/College fee
b. Stationery
c. Books
d. Conveyance
e. Hostel expenses
f. Entertainment
g. Other items (specify)

10. Is your monthly income enough for you? Yes.....No.....
11. If your monthly income is not enough, how do you propose to increase it?

Can you save anything from your monthly income? If yes, under which of the above-noted heads of expenditures we save how much? HOW DATA IS COLLECTED

- Personal investigation
- Oral investigation
- Information from correspondents
- Information through mailing method ,and enumerator’s method

Personal investigation: In this method we will collect data directly from the informants. This method will success if investigator should be diligent, efficient, impartial and tolerant.

Merits

- Data have high degree of originality.



- Data are accurate when personally collected.
- Information is always collected by himself. So data is always reliable.
- When data is collected personally the investigator may collect related information also.
- This method is elastic because investigator always makes necessary adjustment in set of the question.

Demerits

- Personal Investigation becomes very difficult when it study very wide.
- Data can be lost credibility.
- In the terms of money it is very costly.
- In this investigation area is very small.

Indirect Oral Investigation

In this Investigation Data will not be collected from that person whom data needed rather than it collected by those who are expected to possess the necessary information. For example data on the economic conditions of the worker may be collected from their employers rather than the worker themselves.

Suitability

This method is suitable for those whose field of investigation is very large, when not possible to direct contact with the concerned person, informants are not capable of giving information because of illiteracy.

Merits

- This method can be implied very wide area
- This method is less expensive compared to direct personal investigation.



- We can take expert advice on this method...
- This method is very simple to approach.

Demerit

- The data collected by indirect oral investigation is less accurate because the information collected from person rather than concerned person.
- This method may be lead to doubtful conclusions due to careless of the witnesses.

Information from local sources or correspondents

The investigator appoints local person or correspondents at different places. They collect information in their own way and furnish the same to the investigator.

Suitability

- This method is suitable when regular and continuous information is needed.
- Area of investigation is large.
- Information is used by journals, magazines, radio, TV etc...
- High degree of accuracy did not require.

Merits

This method is economical in terms of money. Correspondents keep on supplying almost regular information. This investigation done in special purpose investigation like different price quotations from different vegetable market.

Demerits



There is lack of uniformity of data. This method suffers from the personal bias of the correspondents. Data collected by this method are not very accurate. Some data collected from this data can be delayed.

2. Semi- Government: **Collection of Secondary Data**

Published sources: - 1. Government Publication: Minister of Central and State Government in India publishes variety of statistics as their routine activity. Like Annual Survey of Industry they publish data relating to education, health, births, and deaths. These data are fairly reliable and useful.

3. Research Institutions: Various university and research institutions publish information regarding their research activities.

Unpublished sources: There are some unpublished Secondary Data also. These data are collected by government organization for their self use or their office record.

But before using these data we have to take some precautions:-data should be checked properly before entering into the record. We should always remember that what our objective is. The method of collected data by the original investigator should always be noted. We should always mention the period of investigation as well as the conditions on which data collected. Collection of data unit measure will be different so before used these data we should always modified it. Before entering data we should always check accuracy.

Sources of collection of Secondary Data: Census of Data includes size, growth rate and distribution of Population in World. Population projections, density of population, sex composition of population, state of literacy.

Reports and publications of National Sample Survey Office: This organization under the Ministry of Statistics and programmed implementation. This organization conducts regular sample surveys to collect basic information relating to a variety of economic activity in rural area. For example “drinking water, sanitation, housing conditions and slum conditions, employment and unemployment status in World. Sources of household income. “These information of the following parameters of economic change:



(c) Internal data

(d) None of these

3. Which of the following is a merit of a good questionnaire?

(A) Difficult

(b) Less number of questions

(c) Not in proper order

(d) Invalid questions

Ans. 1. (a), 2. (b), 3. (b).

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Define data. What is the main source of data?
2. Define Primary and Secondary Data. Give one example of each.
3. What are the main methods of collecting Primary Data?
4. What precautions are necessary to use Secondary Data?
5. "Census of India provides statistical information on various aspects of demographic changes in India". Explain

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION

1. What are Primary Data? Enumerate the various method of collecting Primary Data. Discuss the merits and demerits of any one of them.
2. Distinguish between Primary and Secondary Data. State the relevant situations when Primary and Secondary Data are to be used.
3. What are important type of data as published in "Census of World Reports and publications of NSSO"?

