Secondary Data & Researches in Literature
(A Study of the Significance of Secondary Data in the Sanskrit Literature Researches)

Gauri Dixit
Research Scholar,
Dept. of Sanskrit,
Institute of Oriental Philosophy,
Vrindavan (U.P.) India

Sarla Sharma
Research Guide,
Dept. of Sanskrit,
Institute of Oriental Philosophy,
Vrindavan (U.P.) India

Abstract

Data are the backbone of research without which no research is possible. In all the researches whether in natural sciences, social sciences, humanities or literature, data are essentially used for the sake of carrying out research scientifically and arriving at generalization. Data are the information to be collected from the various sources regarding the theme and subject to be studied. Data form the basis of entire research. It is the data collected from the units In accordance with their nature, data are of two types-primary data and the secondary data. Primary data are the data that are all new and fresh as they are not already available anywhere. Primary data are the data which are used for the first time by the researcher himself in the context of the research. On the contrary, the secondary data are the data that have already been collected and used at least one in any other research conducted earlier. Secondary data are found available in books, journals, magazines, newspapers, manuscripts, theses, dissertations etc. Secondary data provide a sufficient feed back to the researcher about the subject of research.

Researches in literature too are not an exception to it. The methodology of researches in literature is different from the one adopted in natural sciences or social sciences. In natural sciences and social sciences, both the primary and the secondary data are used, while in researches of literature, secondary data plays a pivot role.

The paper is a theoretical study which highlights the significance of secondary data in researches of Sanskrit literature.

Keywords: Research, Data, Primary Data, Secondary Data, Research Design, Methodology.

Introduction

Research is the process of solving problems and finding facts in an organised way. Research is done by applying what is known, and building on it something new. Actually research is simply the process of arriving as dependable solution to a problem through the planned and systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of a data. Research is the most important process for advancing knowledge for promoting progress and to enable man to relate more effectively to his environment to accomplish his purpose and to solve his conflicts. So, literary research means finding something new within a literary work. Just like a lab scientist, the literature-researcher is asked to take what is already there and find a new way to interpret the information, and then discuss it.

As about all the other literary researches, about Sanskrit literature research, the researcher can approach his own literary research paper, find an article about the work and disagree with it, find an article that he agrees with and expands the author's opinion, or come up with a completely new idea. The important thing is to argue some point; say something specific about the literary work. The most important thing to be noted about the Sanskrit literature research that the main idea has to be an argument of sorts. The research thesis should not be considered merely a book report, in which the summary of the studied stuff is given. There must be two sides to an argument, so whatever the researcher is saying about this narrative, there must be other people who would disagree with him.

The need for establishing Indological Centres in India was felt for the following reasons-

1. Promotion of Sanskrit classes i.e. Sastri, Acharya, M.A., M.Phil and Ph.D.
2. Organization of meetings and seminars for the purpose of paper presentation, lectures and discussions on the major issues of Sanskrit literature and Sanskrit learning
3. Search, preservation and maintenance of the manuscripts
4. Recording of Vedic Mantras, Sanskrit lyrics and songs and speeches of eminent Indologists for the purpose of bringing the people closer to the ancient Sanskrit literature and Hindu culture.
5. Editing and publication of unpublished work of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit languages
6. Developing rich libraries with ancient Sanskrit texts in them
7. Publishing of books and journals

Sanskrit literature research is a soul of fundamental and conceptual research which with possible integration with modern sciences would be useful for a better understanding of the various aspects and genres of Sanskrit literature. Though a base for every type of research, the Sanskrit literature research has been neglected. It needs an effective campaigning and revolution for its proper flourishing.

As in the researches relating to other disciplines, in Sanskrit literature too, data are essentially used. However, it is worth mentioning here that in the Sanskrit literature research, it is the secondary data available in the ancient Sanskrit texts and scriptures like Vedas, Vedangas, Puranas, Smritis, Epics, that is used chiefly for the systematic understanding and study of the major literary trends of the Sanskrit literature.

All the four Vedas dealing with one or the other aspect of the ancient Indian society and life are the most authentic source of information. They form the basis of the Sanskrit literature. All the researchers of Sanskrit literature go to the Vedas in order to get information on the theme to be studied. They are the soul of the Sanskrit literature without which the Sanskrit literature has no meaning. All the researches in the Sanskrit literature have relevant contents from the Vedas. In addition to the Vedas, there are the smritis, vedangas, puranas, epics and various other Sanskrit texts that have in them the roots of Sanskrit literature research.

The contents available in all these ancient Hindu scriptures are used by the Sanskrit literature scholars as the secondary data which enable the scholars to go into the depth of the topics meant for the research. Each of these scriptures has much to supply to the research scholars and to satiate their thirst for knowledge and wisdom.

Objectives of The Study
1. To produce the scenario of research in literatures
2. To highlight the differences between the methodology of researches of natural and social sciences and that of literatures
3. To focus the methodology of research in Sanskrit literature
4. To reflect the significance of data in research
5. To discuss the various types of data and the sources that make such data available to the researchers
6. To emphasize the significance of secondary data in the researches of literature
7. To interpret the causes and effects of the use of secondary data in the researches of literature
8. To discuss the issue in the context of the research in Sanskrit literature

Review of Literature

V. Raghavan (Oct. '59—Mar. '60) in the research article entitled Sanskrit Literature observes that in 1958, the Government of India published the report of Sanskrit Commission, and in 1959 the Central Sanskrit Board was set up to implement the recommendations of the commission. The scheme to bring out a series of editions of rare Sanskrit texts was finalized. The most noteworthy event was the starting of a Sanskrit journal for new original writing in Sanskrit.

D. Wujastyk (1998) in the research paper entitled Science and Vedic Studies observes that Vedic studies are important for the history of Indian science; Modern science, in particular physics, is not a useful source of philosophical ideas that confirm aspects of Vedic studies; Vedic studies will not contribute to modern scientific research; and Vedic studies are nevertheless centrally important for an understanding of Indian history and culture in general.

M.G. Prasad (2000) in Science,Technology and Sanskrit in Ancient India observes that the Vedic literature deals with all aspects of life including spirituality, philosophy, yoga, religion, rituals, temples, arts and culture, music, dance, grammar, pronunciation, metre astrology, astronomy, logic, law medicine, surgery, technology, martial arts, military strategy, etc.

Sheldon Pollock (2001) in his study The Death of Sanskrit observes that Sanskrit is considered—according to the characteristic hyperbole of the VHP—the source and sole preserver of world culture. The state's anxiety both about Sanskrit's role in shaping the historical identity of the Hindu nation and about its contemporary vitality has manifested itself in substantial new funding for Sanskrit education, and in the declaration of 1999–2000 as the "Year of Sanskrit," with plans for conversation camps, debate and essay competitions, drama festivals, and the like.

Stephen Gorard (2002) in his research paper entitled The Role of Secondary Data in Combining Methodological Approaches summarizes the reasons for using secondary data. The study concludes that the purportedly poor quality of some UK educational research, allied to the potential of secondary data, might actually empower novice researchers, enabling them to critique established work and to conduct powerful and informative analyses of their own.

Aruna Goel (2003) in her book Good Governance and Ancient Sanskrit Literature discusses that to catch up with the changing trend all over the world, research activities have now started in scientific literature in Sanskrit, interdisciplinary studies

Shrinkhla Ek Shodhparak Vaicharik Patrika

in Sanskrit. The fields normally covered are Agamas and Tantras, Art, Archaeology, Architecture, Buddhist, Jaina and Hindu studies, Dharma Sastra and Artha Sastra, Epics and Puranas, Manuscripts and Historical Sources, Modern Sanskrit Literature, Music and Performing Arts, Philosophy, Poetics, related studies like Sanskrit and Regional languages, Sanskrit Scientific Literature, Sanskrit Medical Literature, Sanskrit and Environment, Sanskrit and Computers, Vedas and Vedangas, Vyakaran and Linguistics etc.

Geoff Walsham (2006) in his paper Doing interpretive research holds the idea that interpretive research in information systems (IS) is now a well-established part of the field. However, there is a need for more material on how to carry out such work from inception to publication.

Jacob A. Benfield & William J. Szlemko (2006) in their research paper titled Internet-Based Data Collection: Promises and Realities hold the idea that data collection over the Internet has many potential benefits. Unfortunately, it also has many potential problems. Properly used, Internet-based data collection can generate large samples, be a solution to funding problems, ease logistics, and eliminate data entry. However, problems can arise during any phase of the research. With careful planning, many issues can be avoided altogether.

Beth E. Haverkamp Richard A. Young (2007) in Paradigms, Purpose, and the Role of the Literature: Formulating a Rationale for Qualitative Investigations wrote that the interpretive/constructivist paradigm offers several sharp contrasts with postpositivism. Grounded in relativist ontology, it posits multiple, equally valid social realities. Knowledge or meaning emerges through interaction between persons and is described as co-constructed; it cannot be observed directly but must be interpreted.

Laurie L. Patton (2008) in the research paper Rsis Imagined Across Difference: Some Possibilities for the Study of Conceptual Metaphor in Early India observes that the creation of a sastra is used in the similes that Asvaghosa constructs.

Dilip V. Jeste, M.D. and Ipsit V. Vahia, M.D. (2008) in their paper Comparison of the Conceptualization of Wisdom in Ancient Indian Literature with Modern Views (Focus on the Bhagavad Gita) focus on conceptualization of wisdom in the Bhagavad Gita, arguably the most influential of all ancient Hindu philosophical/religious texts. The study found the following components to be associated with the concept of wisdom in the Gita: Knowledge of life, Emotional Regulation, Control over Desires, Decisiveness, Love of God, Duty and Work, Self-Contentedness, Compassion/Sacrifice, Insight/Humility, and Yoga (Integration of personality).

Shashiprabha Kumar (2008) in the research paper entitled Vedic Studies in Germany finds that the contribution of the German indologists to Sanskrit language, literature and culture is unimaginable. Though the credit of discovering Sanskrit for the West goes to England and though it was at the feet of French pioneers that the first German Sanskritists like Bopp and Schlegel sat, Germany had taken to Sanskrit studies with such enthusiasm and disinterested love, that outside India, one can say without exaggeration, that it has been a second home of Sanskrit.

Reddy, K. Srinivasa and Agrawal, Rajat (2012) in their paper Designing case studies from secondary sources – A conceptual framework discuss that a good case study supposes to fulfill the learning objectives and feed the practical applications, or managerial decisions through theories, concepts, models and principles. Further, the case should be flexible to teach or insert a theme in different areas of study. A case encloses multiple faces would guide faculty and students in effective manner. Teaching theory through case learning is an interesting task, and it gives a meek confidence and opportunity to insight the issues more in depth rather than broad coverage.

R. Dineshkumar & Prof. Dr. J. Suganthi (2013) in their paper A Research Survey on Sanskrit Offline Handwritten Character Recognition discuss that Sanskrit (Devanagari), an alphabetic script, is used by over 500 million people all over the world. Recognition of Sanskrit (Devanagari) handwritten scripts is complicated compared to other language scripts. A lot of research work exists in the survey for Sanskrit (Devanagari) Handwritten recognition. However, there is no standard solution to identify all Sanskrit characters with reasonable accuracy.

Hypothesis

1. Research is not confined only to the study of natural sciences wherein attempts are made to understand the natural phenomena through observation and experiments
2. Research is a wide term which involves the understanding of the literary trends and genres
3. There are several types of research with their peculiar features and methodology
4. Data is the core of a research without which no research is imaginable
5. There are various types of data, and each of these types of data is important in research
6. There are various techniques through which the primary data are collected
7. There are several traditional and modern sources of the collection of secondary data
8. The researches pertaining to literature are qualitative in nature, and use the secondary data chiefly

Research Methodology

The study is theoretical in nature and based on the secondary data on the theme available in the various research papers on internet sites. An attempt was made to make a systematic study of the selected theme. The author began the research with the selection of the subject to be studied followed by a thorough study of 10 research papers dealing with the various aspects of the theme. Thereafter review of each of the selected papers was prepared and contents of the papers were analyzed. After a sufficient feedback on the theme had been got, hypothesis was formulated keeping in centre the researches in Sanskrit literature. A suitable research design was prepared which engrossed the qualitative

Shrinkhla Ek Shodhparak Vaicharik Patrika

research of the selected theme, review based findings etc. Throughout the paper the focal point was the significance of the secondary data in Sanskrit literature researches.

Key-Findings & Conclusion

1. Literature-research is generally qualitative, explanatory and interpretative, and the same is true of researches in Sanskrit literature
2. Research methodology of Sanskrit literature research is different from that of the natural and social sciences
3. Data is the soul of every type of research without which no research is imaginable and possible
4. Both the primary and the secondary data have their own importance. The primary data serves new knowledge of things, while the secondary data serve the refined knowledge of things that have already been studied
5. Observation, Schedule, Questionnaire, Interview etc. are the popular techniques and sources of primary data, while case study, books, journals, thesis and dissertations, manuscripts, research journals etc. are the sources of secondary data
6. In the Sanskrit-Literature researches, secondary data have a pivot role to play
7. Sanskrit texts, Vedas, Puranas, Epics, Smritis etc. are some of the traditional sources of secondary data in the Sanskrit-literature researches
8. Research journals, internet sites and means of media etc. are some of the modern sources of secondary data
9. Scenario of Sanskrit literature is quite enthusiastic at present which confirms the interest of the researchers in Sanskrit texts and the contents therein
10. Observation is the basis of the natural and social science research, while being familiar with the major literary trends through the Sanskrit texts and scriptures is the basis of research in Sanskrit literature
11. Collection of primary data is avoided in the Sanskrit literature research as it lacks the survey work, while the collection of secondary data is encouraged in such researches as there are thousands and ten-thousands of Sanskrit texts to make the scholars familiar with the major literary trends in the Sanskrit literature
12. Promotion of the researches in Sanskrit literature for the sake of the revival of ancient Indian culture is the most burning issue of the day

The researches in Sanskrit literature are being conducted all over the world for the sake of understanding and reviving the ancient Indian culture which give the highest importance to the Vedas and other Sanskrit texts which once formed the basis of life of the people. Vedas and the other Sanskrit texts are the best source of secondary data to the Sanskrit scholars. They can enable the scholars to conduct research on any theme whatever it is. No doubt, the study of some of the themes requires the use of the primary data, but in most of the studies, secondary data are given priority keeping in view the nature of the research work. At the time when India is in the grip of westernization and materialism, it is essential to show a righteous path to the straying people. The researches in Sanskrit literature can make a tremendous contribution in this field. In a nutshell, it is only through the researches in Sanskrit literature that the long age ancient Indian Hindu culture can be preserved and carried on to the next generations to come.

References

Aruna Goel -Good Governance and Ancient Sanskrit Literature, Deep & Deep Publications, Private Limited, New Delhi, 2003

Beth E. Haverkamp Richard A. Young-Paradigms, Purpose, and the Role of the Literature: Formulating a Rationale for Qualitative Investigations, The Counseling Psychologist, March 2007

C. Shamasundar- Relevance of ancient Indian wisdom to modern mental health – A few examples, Indian J Psychiatry. 2008 Apr-Jun; 50(2): 138–143.

D. Wujastyk- Science and Vedic Studies, Journal of Indian Philosophy, August 1998, Volume 26, Issue 4, pp 335–345

Dilip V. Jeste, M.D. and Ipsit V. Vahia, M.D.-Comparison of the Conceptualization of Wisdom in Ancient Indian Literature with Modern Views (Focus on the Bhagavad Gita), Psychiatry. 2008; 71(3): 197–209.

Geoff Walsham -Doing interpretive research, European Journal of Information Systems, June 2006, Volume 15, Issue 3, pp 320–330

Jacob A. Benfield & William J. Szlemko-Internet-Based Data Collection: Promises and Realities hold the idea, Journal of Research Practice, Volume 2, Issue 2, Article D1, 2006

Laurie L. Patton- Rsis Imagined Across Difference: Some Possibilities for the Study of Conceptual Metaphor in Early India, The Journal of Hindu Studies, Volume 1, Issue 1-2, 16 October 2008, Pages 49–76

M.G. Prasad - Science, Technology and Sanskrit in Ancient India, Princeton University Press (2000)

R. Dineshkumar & Prof. Dr.J.Suganthi- A Research Survey on Sanskrit Offline Handwritten Character Recognition, International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications, Volume 3, Issue 1, January 2013

Reddy, K. Srinivasa and Agrawal, Rajat-Designing case studies from secondary sources – A conceptual framework, International Management Review, 8(2), 63-70, 2012.

Shashiprabha Kumar-Vedic Studies in Germany, Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Vol. LXXXVIII (4-5-2008), (eds.) G.U. Thite and M.G. Dhadphale, pp.129- 139, Pune, 2008.)

Sheldon Pollock- The Death of Sanskrit, Cambridge University Press, Volume 43, Issue 2, April 2001 , pp. 392-426

Stephen Gorard- The Role of Secondary Data in Combining Methodological Approaches, Educational Review, Volume 54, Issue 3, 2002

V. Raghavan-Sanskrit Literature, JSTOR, Indian Literature, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Oct. '59—Mar. '60), pp. 95-99