

A Classical Discourse of Research methodology from Philosophical Standpoint: Need to Know to Claim Knowledge

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ABSTRACT



Researches in Architecture in India got its momentum in recent years, which are witnessed in quantity as well as in wide varieties of topics. Such endeavors are much needed to contribute existing body of knowledge, particularly in the field of architecture, where explorations were a few in the past. Fundamentally, 'to know', an eternal quest for knowledge in the domain of philosophy, sets the theoretical principles of 'what to know' and 'how to know' to claim it. 'Research', the term originated from the French, means 'to seek' or 'to search'; furthermore, many definitions emerged with a common implication that stands for 'creative systematic study to increase stock of knowledge'. The paradigms of 'mythos' and 'logos' in ancient Greek, fountainhead of Philosophy discourses, emphasize on logical process to prove a fact than mythically. Further mythology emerges with combination of both. To understand methodology, the prologue is necessary. Methods are the tools, techniques used in research for collection and analysis of facts. Methodology where the philosophical component builds up knowledge from facts based on truth and logical methods. Research methodology is itself a subject, on which colossal body of research is existing. This discourse, only attempts to project through philosophical lens, so that the contribution from the researches would not only expand the knowledge body, it also would claim a theoretical, systematic, and analytical study of methods and principles appropriated and applied to generate a branch of knowledge. This descriptive and argumentative discourse is aimed to discuss with an example of a qualitative walk-along interview method appropriated and applied in a research by the author. The observation and interview methods are adapted separately as well as simultaneously, from non-participatory to participatory approach and from individual to social groups in creative and logical sequences to capture a social phenomenon in urban neighbourhoods. The methods used in multidisciplinary fields, appropriated to address the queries of the research from available guidelines and pilot surveys. The methodological contribution to existing knowledge of architectural and urban researches is claimed that might throw light on unlimited possibilities of future researches and to refine the same methods.

Keywords: Classical discourse, Research methodology, philosophical standpoint, knowledge claim, architecture



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