

Frequently Asked Questions

- Why secondary data analysis is defined as “second-hand” analysis?

Answer: Secondary data analysis can be literally defined as “second-hand” analysis because it is the analysis of data or information that was either gathered by someone else (e.g., researchers, institutions, other NGOs, etc.) or for some other purpose than the one currently being considered, or often a combination of the two.

- Why it is important to ask questions to check the reliability of secondary data?

Answer: Reliability is an essential pre-requisite for validity. Hence to check the reliability of the secondary data it is better to ask questions. These points or questions will help in realizing the reliability of the data.

- When the adequacy of data is considered to be inadequate?

Answer: If the data collected is narrower or wider than the area of the present enquiry then it is considered to be inadequate.

- What are the problems faced in published sources?

Answer: There are several reasons why these problems exist:

1. The scale of official surveys generally requires large numbers of enumerators (interviewers) and, in order to reach those numbers enumerators contracted are often under-skilled;
2. The size of the survey area and research team usually prohibits adequate supervision of enumerators and the research process; and
3. Resource limitations (human and technical) often prevent timely and accurate reporting of results.

- What are the different reasons to write a business letters?

Answer: There are many reasons to write a business letter, they are:

- It could be to request direct information or action from another party
- To order supplies from a supplier
- To identify a mistake that was committed
- To reply directly to a request
- To apologize for a wrong or simply to convey goodwill all of these can be a

source of information

- Differentiate between sample and census data.

Answer: Information collected through sample inquiry is called sample data whereas information collected through census inquiry is called census data. Example: Population census data are collected every ten years in India.

- What are the importances of secondary data?

Answer: If secondary research and data analysis is undertaken with care and diligence, it can provide a cost-effective way of gaining a broad understanding of research questions.

Secondary data are also helpful in designing subsequent primary research and can provide a baseline to compare your primary data collection results.

- Name the commercial and research institutes who publish reports regularly?

Answer: Some commercial and research institutes publish reports regularly, they are: Institutes of Economic Growth, Stock Exchanges, National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT), National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) etc.

- What are the technical reports?

Answer: Technical reports are accounts of work done on research projects. They are written to provide research results to colleagues, research institutions, governments, and other interested researchers. A report may emanate from completed research or on-going research projects.

- Why diaries are considered as unpublished sources?

Answer: A diaries are sources where information is gathered by individuals on time spent on professional or personal journals of thoughts. Diaries can record either quantitative or qualitative data, and provides information in management research about work patterns and activities.

- What are the publications of Reserve Bank of India?

Answer: Reserve Bank of India publishes financial statistics. Its publications are Report on Currency and Finance, Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, Statistical Tables Relating to Banks in India, etc.

- What is Adequacy of data?

Answer: The available data should be checked for its level of accuracy, authenticity, as needed for the present level of enquiry, if found suitable then the data is called adequate data and can be used as it will be economical.

- What are the unpublished sources of secondary data?

Answer: Unpublished sources are:

- Unpublished findings of certain inquiry committees
- Diaries
- Letters
- Biographies
- Auto biographies

- List the merits of secondary data.

Answer: Merits of secondary data are:

- Secondary data analysis can be carried out quickly when compared to formal primary data gathering and analysis exercises.
- Where good secondary data is available, researchers save time and money by making good use of available data rather than collecting primary data, thus avoiding duplication of effort.
- Using secondary data provides a relatively low-cost means of comparing the level of well-being. However, keep in mind that data collection methods vary (between researchers, countries, departments, etc, which may impair the comparability of the data
- Depending on the level of data disaggregation, secondary data analysis lends itself to trend analysis as it offers a relatively easy way to monitor change over time.
- It informs and complements primary data collection, saving time and resources often associated with over-collecting primary data

- List the demerits of secondary data?

Answer: Demerits of secondary data are:

- Secondary data helps us understand the condition or status of a group, but

compared to primary data they are imperfect reflections of reality. Without proper interpretation and analysis they do not help us understand why something is happening

- The person reviewing the secondary data can easily become overwhelmed by the volume of secondary data available, if selectivity is not exercised
- It is often difficult to determine the quality of some of the data in question.
- Sources may conflict with each other
- As the secondary data is usually not collected for the same purpose as the original researcher had, the goals and purposes of the original researcher can potentially bias the study
- As the data were collected by other researchers, they decide what to collect and what to omit, hence all of the information desired may not be available