RESEARCH WOORKSHOP 2017

QUALITY RESEARCH FOR BETTER COMMUNITIES

THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

PRESENTATION

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and

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INTRODUCTION

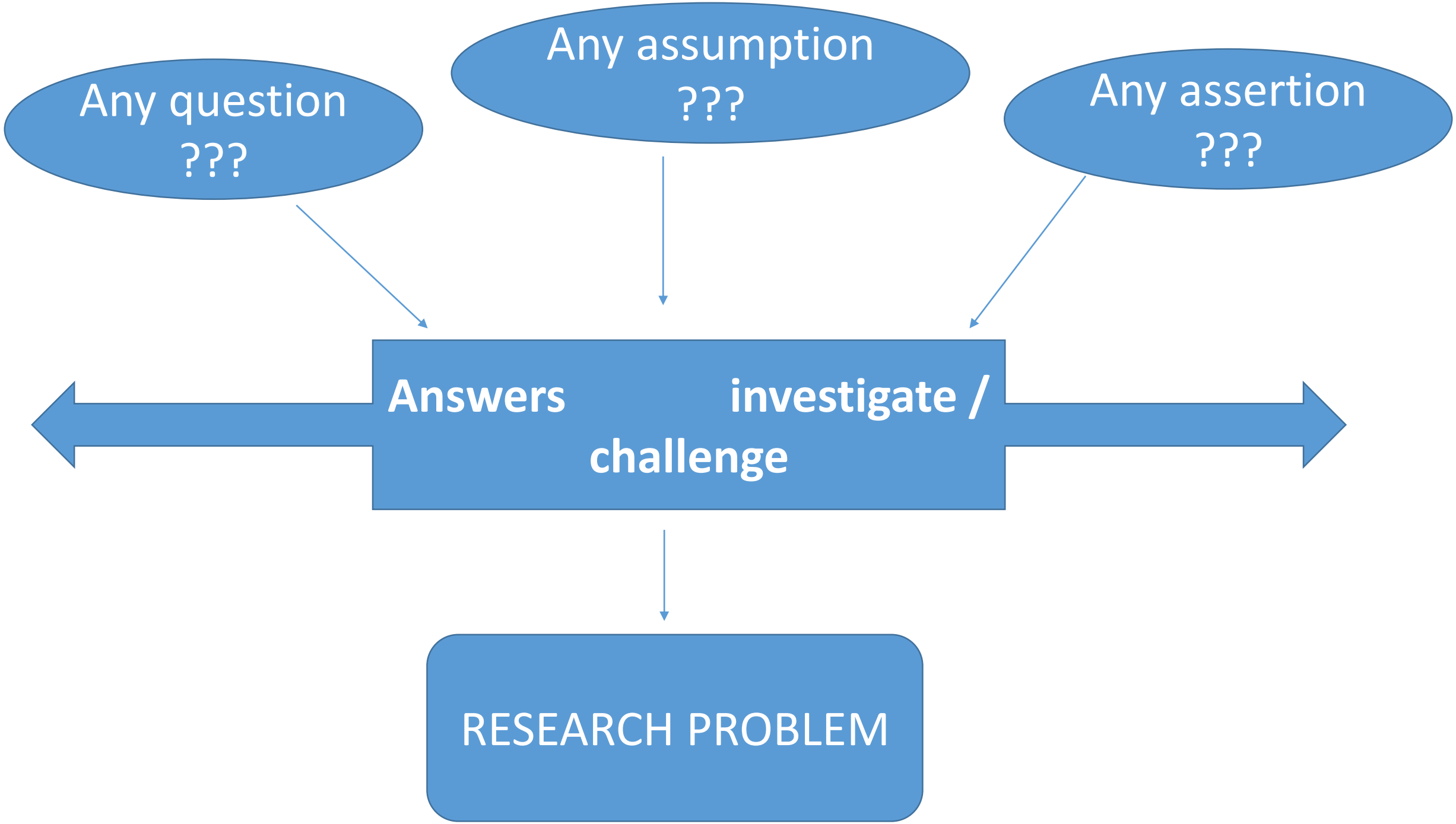
- What is research?
  - Systematic, patient study and investigation in some field of knowledge undertaken to understand facts and principles.

  Research is not only a set of skills but also away of thinking. Within this framework of thinking, you usually question what you observe, make an attempt to explore, understand and explain your observations, draw conclusions and inference to enhance practice skills and their knowledge base.

- Quality research?
  - Controlled
  - Rigorous
  - Systematic
  - Valid and verifiable
  - Empirical
  - Critical

RESEARCH PROBLEM

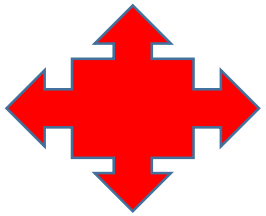
- Importance of formulating a research problem in research
  - First and most important step of a research process (destination before journey!)
  - Absence of clear research problem – no clear and economical plan
  - Research problem – foundation of a building
    - Type and design of a building – foundation
    - Strength of a building – foundation
  - For one to solve a problem–must generally know what the problem
  - Have a clear idea of what exactly you want to find out about, not what you think you must find
  - The way you formulate a research problem – determines all subsequent steps in the research journey
  - **NB: Make sure your idea is researchable**


Any question ???
Any assumption ???
Any assertion ???
Answers
investigate / challenge
RESEARCH PROBLEM

Sources of research problems

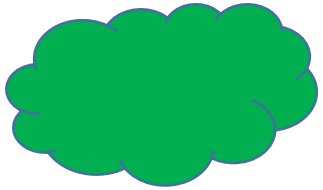
- Most research revolves around the four Ps
  - People

- Problems



- Programs

- Phenomena



- Most studies - Combination of at least 2
  - People (study population)
  - problem, phenomena and programs (subject area)

Considerations?

- Interest
  - Most important consideration
  - If topic doesn't interest you – little motivation, limited engagement/time, energy to complete
- Magnitude
  - Have sufficient knowledge about research process
  - Narrow to something manageable, specific and clear
  - Consider time and resources at your disposal
- Measure of concept
  - Be clear about concept indicators and measurement
  - DO NOT use concepts you are not sure how to measure

- Level of expertise
  - Have adequate level of expertise for the task
  - Accept that you will learn in the process
  - BUT, most of the work – done by you
- Relevance
  - To profession or field of interest
  - Ensure study adds to existing body of knowledge, bridges gaps or contributes to policy
- Availability of data
  - Make sure data is available (secondary sources)
- Ethical issues

Process / steps

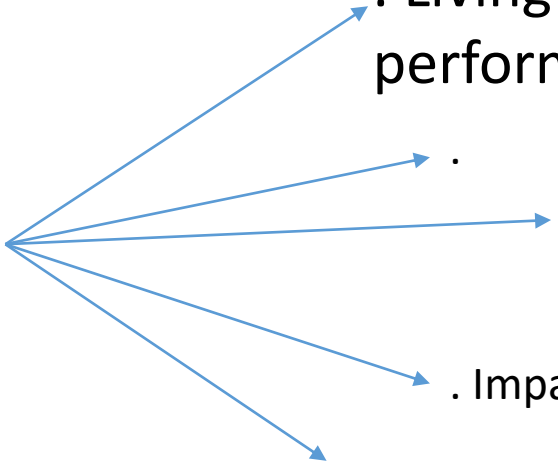
- Step 1: identify broad field / subject of interest
  - Do this at the very beginning
  - Interest? Field of work after graduation?
- Step 2: dissect broad area into sub areas
  - All broad areas have many aspects
  - The more you think or read, the more sub areas
  - Also consult others with some knowledge on the area
  - Develop an exhaustive list of subareas
- Step 3: select what is of most interest
  - Not feasible to study all sub areas
  - Select issues or questions that you are passionate about
  - Interest – most important determinant of selection
  - Can start with a process of elimination
  - End up with something – passionate about, is manageable
- Step 4: Raise questions
  - What is it that you want to find out about the sub area?
  - Make list of all questions that come to mind – about the sub area
  - If they are too many to manage – same process of elimination

GET IT DONE!!!!!

Step 2: dissect broad area into sub areas

Step 1: identify broad field /subject of interest

Health and sanitation



. Living environment and students' performance

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. Relationship between sanitation and health

. Impact of poor sanitation on health

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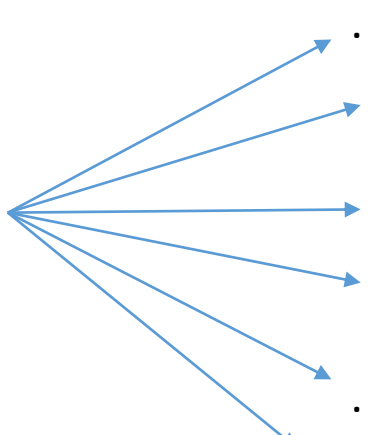
Students' performance



. Profile of students

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. Impact of Class attendance on students' performance

.

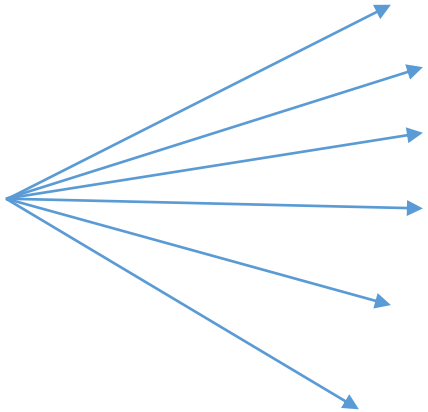
. What affects student's performance

Sub area of interest

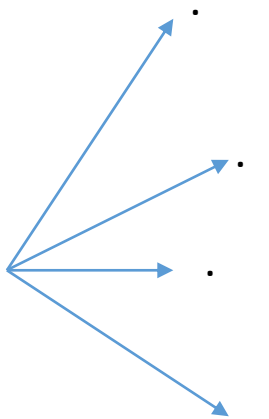
Step 3: select what is of most interest

Step 4: Raise questions

Health and sanitation

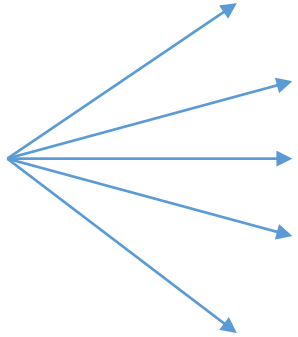


. Living environment and students' performance

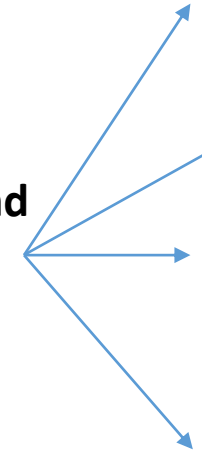


Sub area of interest

Health and sanitation



. Living environment and students' performance



. What is the status of sanitation in Kumi university?

. What is the residential condition of students in Kumi university?

. What is the impact of the status of these facilities on the health of students in Kumi university?

. What will happen if the living environment in Kumi university remains unchanged?

Formulating the statement

- 1. The Ideal scenario
  - Goals
  - Desired state
  - Or values
- 2. The reality of the situation
  - Condition preventing the goals, values and desired state from being achieved
  - What exactly is in place
- 3. The consequence
  - How situation needs urgent attention
  - Consequences of possible solution
  - Consequences if nothing is done
- 4. suggestion/ solution

Sanitation environment and students' performance

- Ideal scenario
  - Quality graduates who have performed well
  - Enough and clean sanitation facilities
  - Safe drinking water
- Reality
  - No safe water supply
  - Dirty and few facilities
  - Congested rooms of residence
- Consequence
  - Poor health
  - Low performance
  - Reduced enrolment
- Suggestion / solution
  - Consistent /sustainable water supply projects
  - Models for better housing

Finished problem statement!

In order to enhance students' performance, Kumi university needs an excellent living environment at a minimum cost. This includes; constant safe water provision, well-spaced rooms of residence, decent and enough sanitation facilities.

Right now, Kumi university's main diagnostic tools are water harvesters which is contributing 10% due to seasonal changes, the number of students has outgrown the available space in the halls of residence affecting the available sanitation facilities.

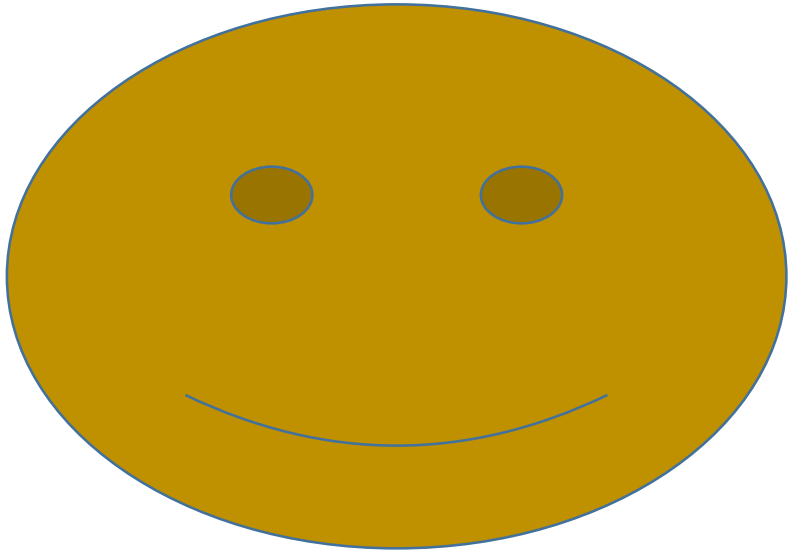
If Kumi university continues to maintain the status quo, they will not only be wasting time and money which jeopardizes their overall efficiency and students' enrollment, but also, undue suffering could lead students to choose another university with more advanced facilities.

Therefore, there is need for current modern water reservoir systems which will provide sustainable safe water supply, quality sanitary facilities, and also adopt the M&G model for university housing. The researcher therefore will investigate the accuracy, efficiency and safety of the living environment and its effect on students' performance.

Reference

Kumar, R. (2014), Research Methodology, 4 ed. Sage Publications, New Delhi.

THANK YOU



‘TILL NEXT TIME