

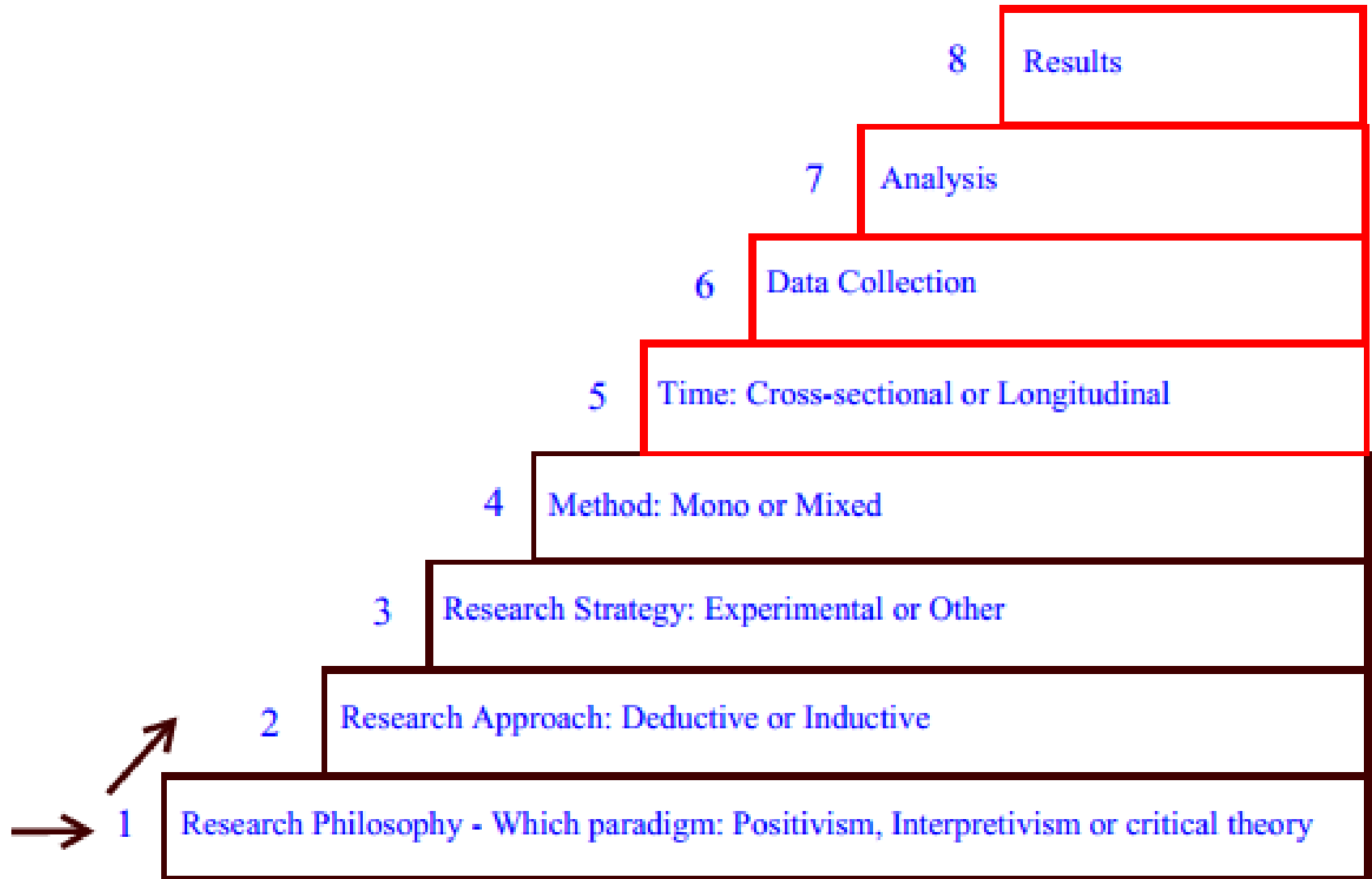
# **Formulation of Research Proposals in Social Sciences and Humanities**

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# Prerequisite knowledge; The research staircase



# Structure of a research proposal

Title order	Title/sub-title or section		Order of working steps
1	Cover page	Research Topic	
		Name of Researcher	
		Reg. No.	
		Institution	
2	Introduction	Background	
		Identification of <b>social problem (or theoretical problem)</b>	1
		Significance	2
3	Literature review	Theoretical literature	3
		Empirical literature (Previous studies)	4
		Research gap and argument for your research	5
4	The problem statement or <b>Research problem</b>		6
5	Objectives		7
6	Hypothesis/Hypotheses (1 – 3)(optional)		8
7	Methodology	Research paradigm and analytical framework/Theoretical basis/Model	9
		Analytical methods	10
		Data types and collection methods	11
8	Chapter organization		
9	Timeframe (Gantt Chart)		
10	Budget		
11	<b>References</b>		
12	<b>Appendices</b>		

# Cover page

**EFFECT OF AN INCREASE IN SALARY ON THE ATTENDANCE  
OF WORKERS IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY IN COUNTRY A**

[Title of your thesis/research]

by

[Your Name]

A Proposal Submitted to Faculty of Graduate Studies  
University of XXXXXXXXXXXXX

[Your Department]  
[Department Address]

[Date of Submission]

# Choosing a topic (in applied research)

- Importance in social point of view
- Demand (how far will you be demanded)

## Currently most important topics:

Examples:

- Global warming
- Women-related social issues
- Population aging and related issues
- Food security
- Energy
- Employability
- Road traffic issues
- Environmental and social factors to control Dengue



Important

## Mixing two or more topics:

Example:

- Global warming – energy
- Women – food security



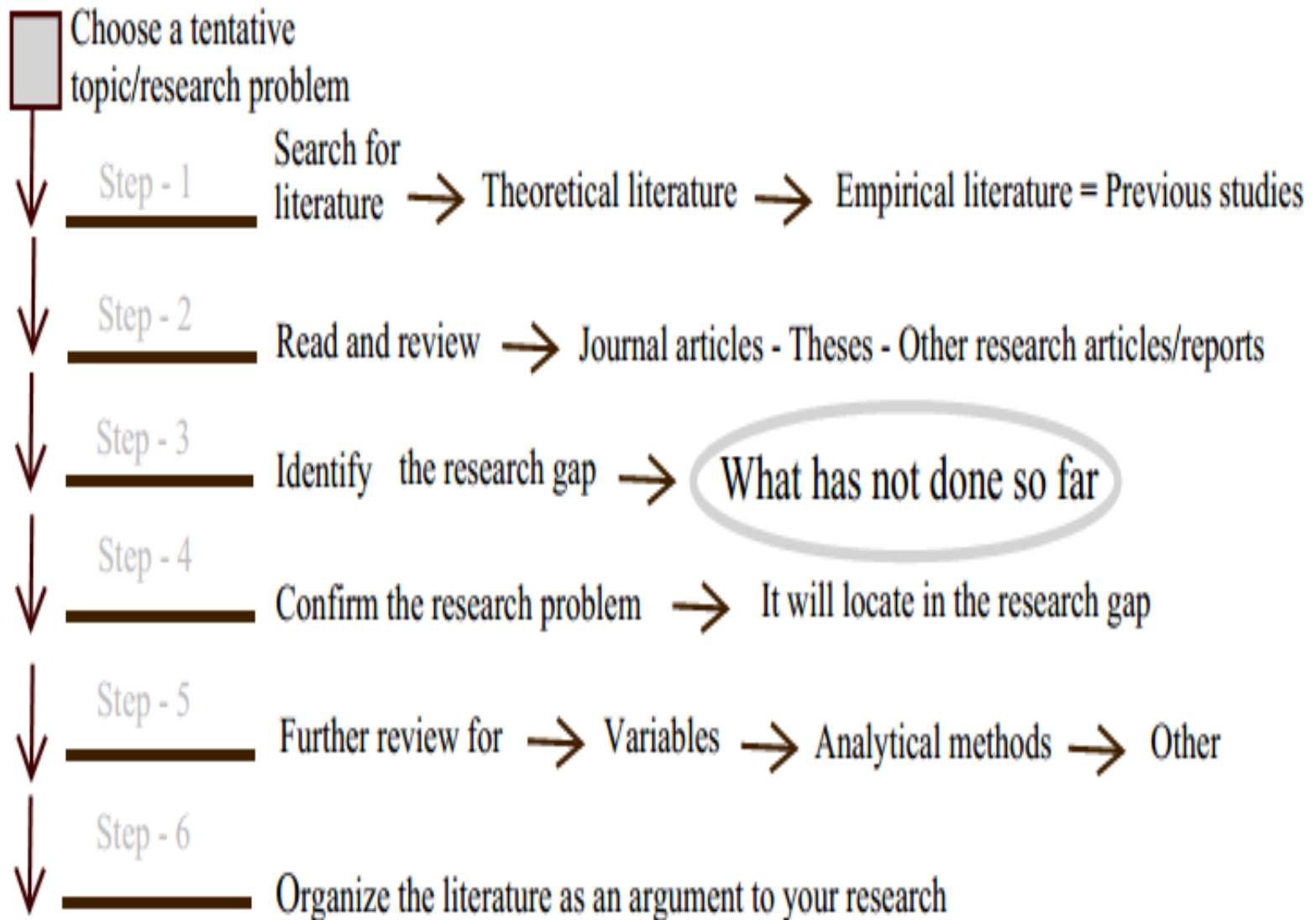
More  
Important/  
higher  
demand

# Features of a good title of a thesis

- It should stand for what is included in the thesis
- It should not be too long
- It can have a sub-title
- It should be very clear
- It should not include jargons, idioms and phrases
- It is highly related to the dependent variable
- It should include the formal language

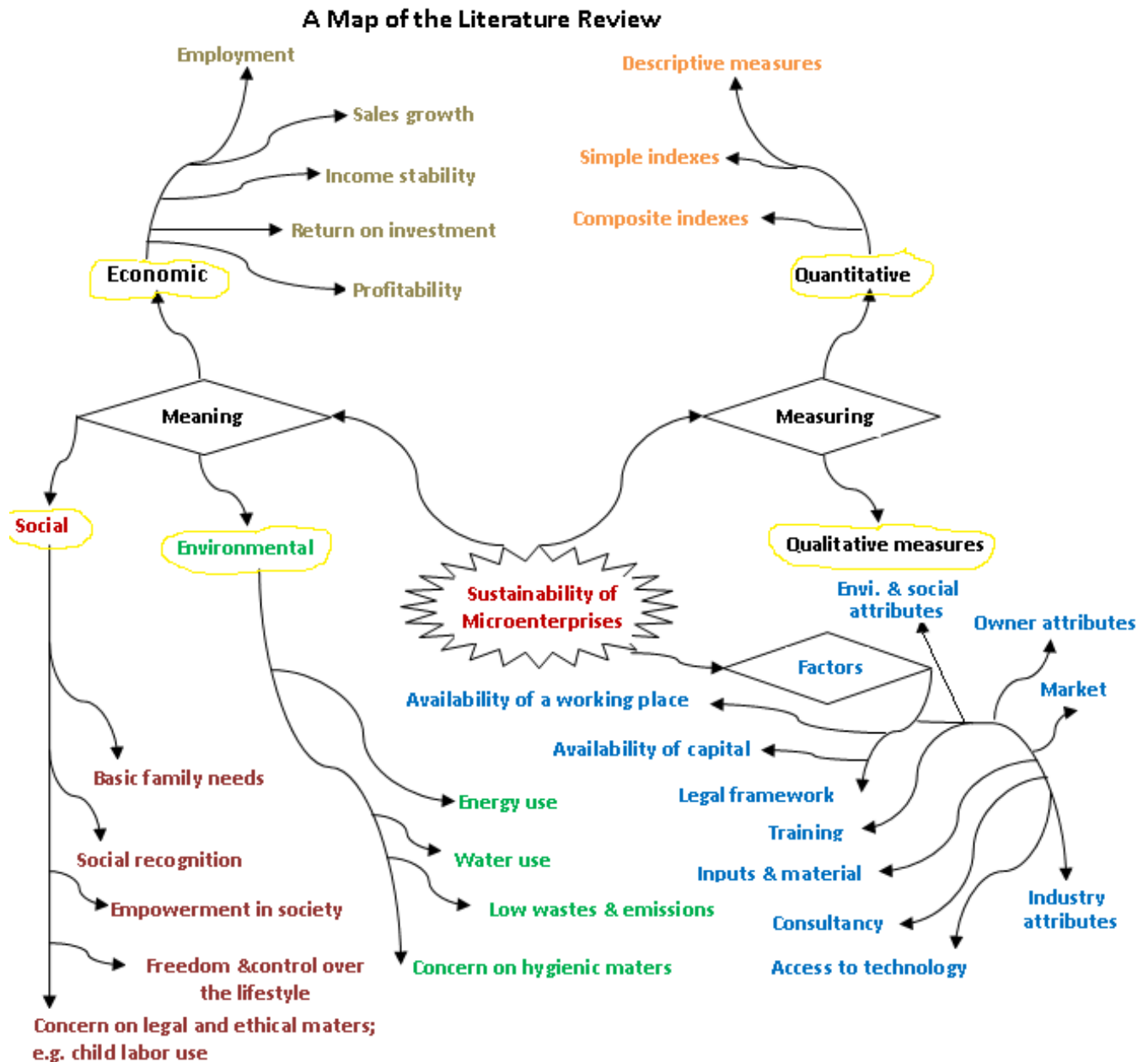
Introduction	Background
	Identification of <b>social problem (or theoretical problem)</b>
	Significance

# The literature review process





An example of a map of literature review



Source: Author

## The problem statement or **Research problem**

- Very clear and precise
- Everything in a thesis is based on the research problem
- The research problem is the topic of one's research.
- In order to make it clear, it is better to write it as a problem statement in one paragraph.

## An example:

*The management of a garment factory consortium in country 'A' wanted to increase the attendance of machine operators in order to increase production under the existing technology without increasing the number of workers and overtime work. They also had known from the theory that workers' attendance has a relationship with their salary and three other factors, X1, X2 and X3. Based on the theory and considering the practicability, they increased the salaries of machine operators by 50 percent for those who have completed at least three years in service, as a strategy to motivate them and increase their attendance. **However**, after one year, the management found that their attendance had further decreased after the increase in salaries. In order to make this clear and get the right action, the management needed to study this problem. This study can designate its problem as "The influence of a change in the volume of salary of machine operators on their attendance at work in the garment industry".*

# Objectives

Generally two types:

1. Main objective or the aim (or general objective)
2. Specific objectives are formed in order to help achieve the main objective. If you can achieve the specific objectives, then you will have automatically achieved the main objective too.

## **An example (related to the above problem):**

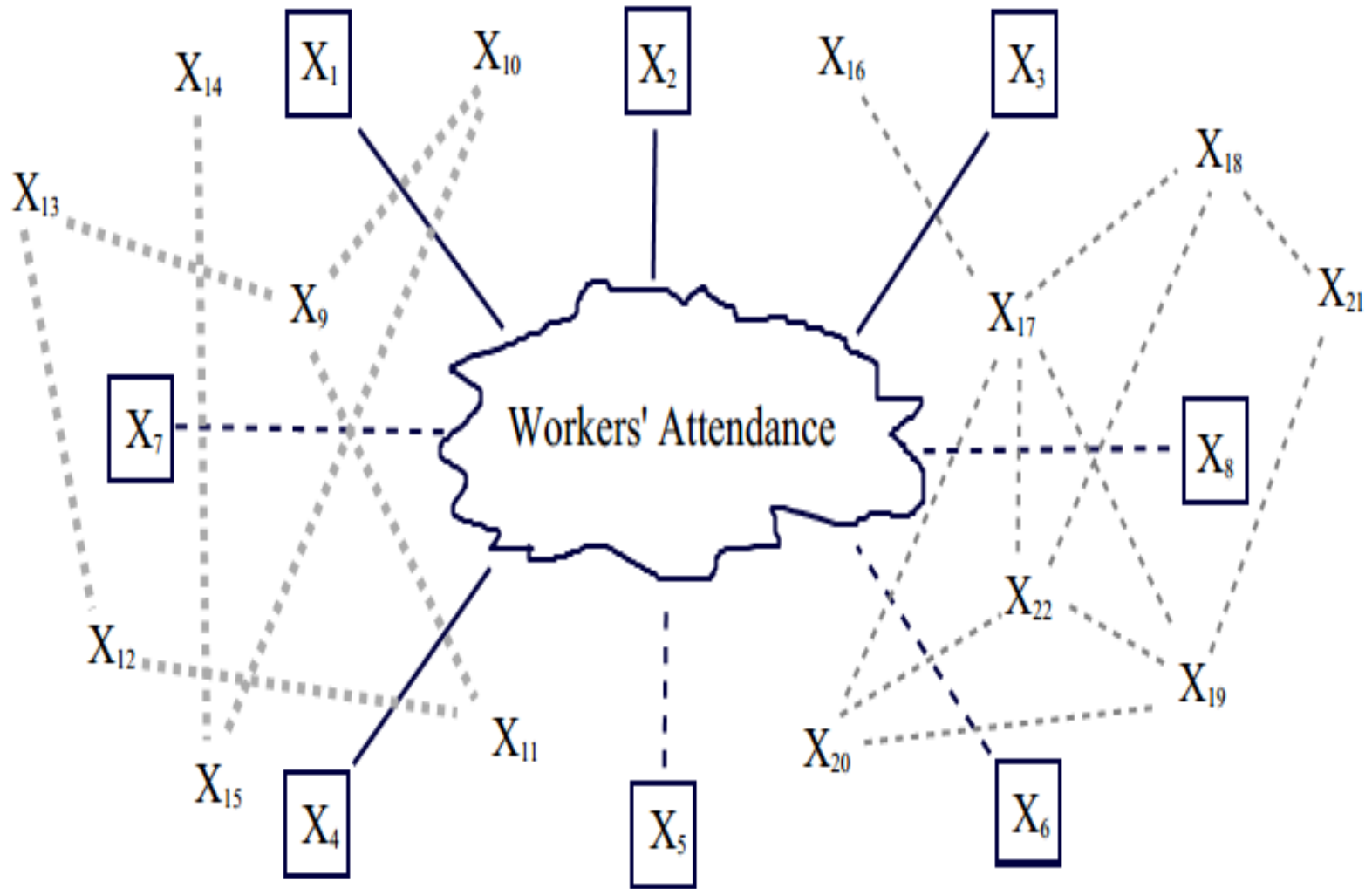
### ***Main objective:***

*The main objective of the study is to examine whether there is a relationship between salary scale (amount) of machine operators (in the garment industry) and their attendance.*

### ***Specific objectives are as follows:***

- (1). To identify whether there is a relationship between the salary of machine operators and their attendance*
- (2). To know why was the attendance of machine operators decreased after the increase in salaries*
- (3). To explore whether there are alternative strategies to increase the attendance of machine operators*

# Hypotheses



## Formulating hypotheses:

### Examples:

Hypothesis set 1:

**H<sub>0</sub>**:  $X_1$  has no relationship with Workers' attendance

**H<sub>a</sub>**:  $X_1$  has a relationship with Workers' attendance (or  $X_1$  positively affects the workers' attendance)

## Hypothesis set 2:

$H_0$ :  $X_2$  has no relationship with Workers' attendance

$H_a$ :  $X_2$  has a relationship with Workers' attendance (or  $X_2$  negatively affects the workers' attendance)

## Hypothesis set 3:

$H_0$ :  $X_3$  has no relationship with Workers' attendance

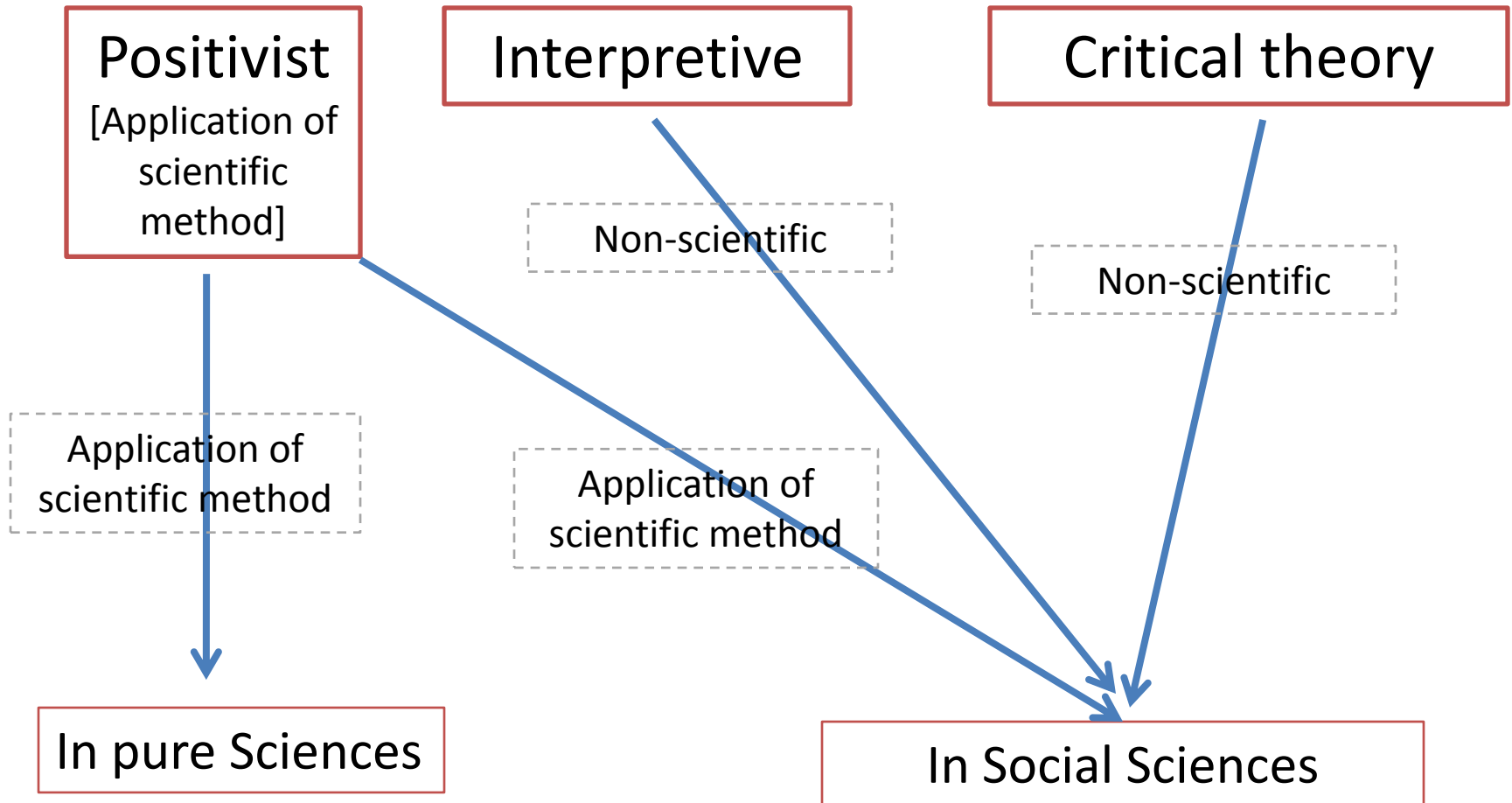
$H_a$ :  $X_3$  has a relationship with Workers' attendance  
(There is a positive relationship between  $X_3$  and workers' attendance)



# Methodology

Methodology	Research paradigm and Analytical framework/Theoretical basis/Model
	Analytical methods/Model specification
	Data types and collection methods

# Decide the paradigm



# Cross-paradigm research

## Example 1:

First part of a research – Interpretive paradigm

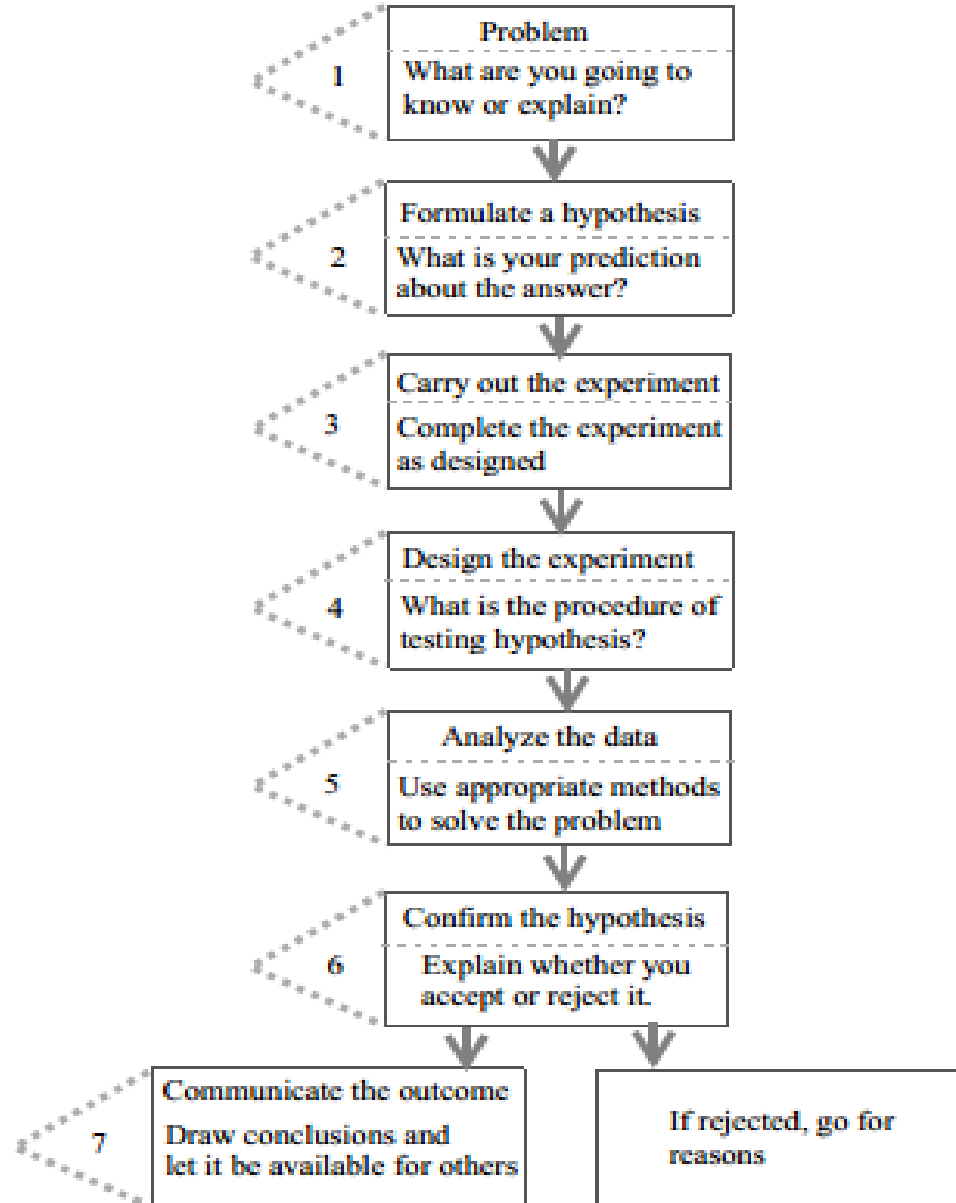
Second part – Positivist paradigm

## Example 2:

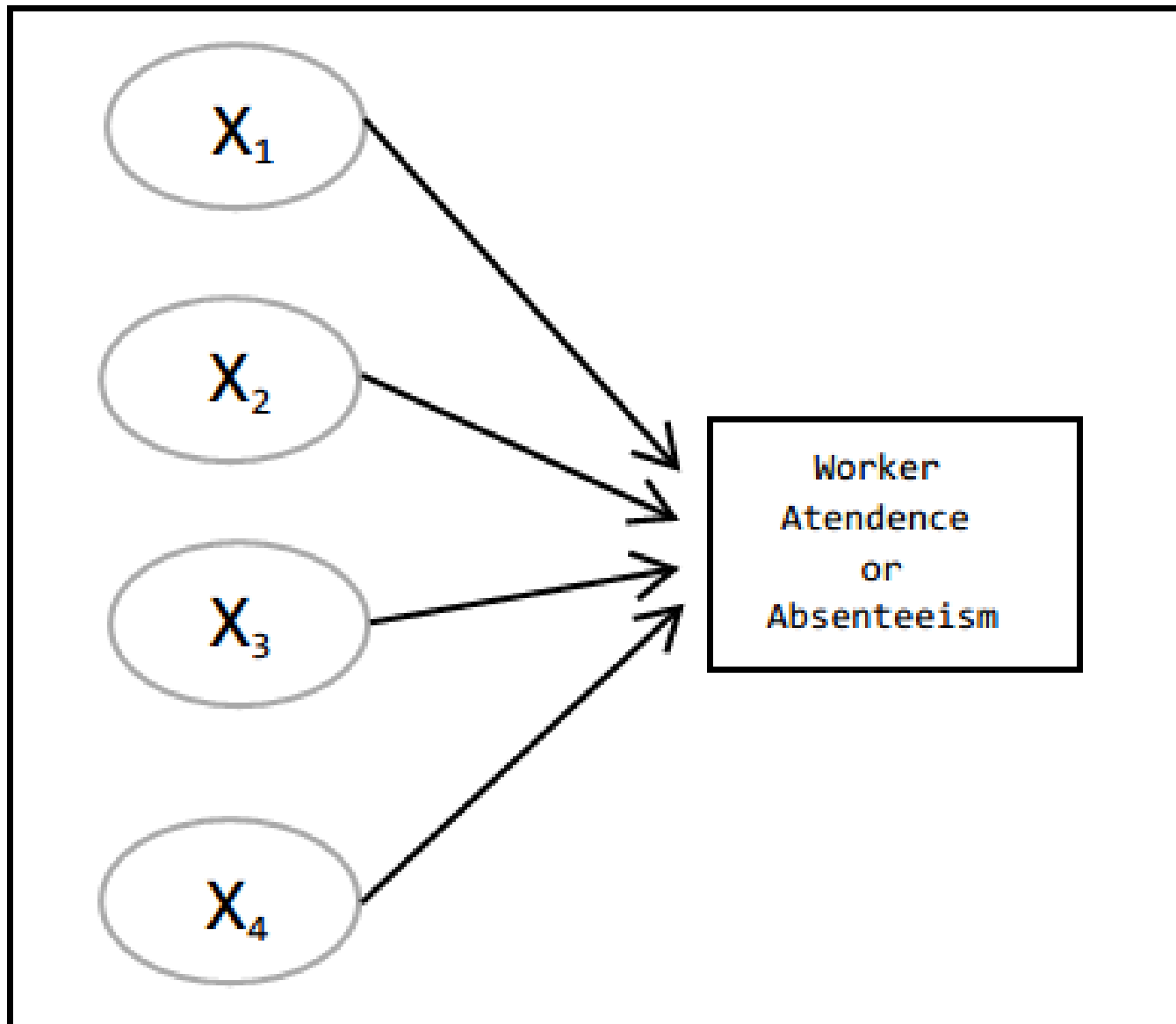
First part of a research – Positivist paradigm

Second part – Interpretive paradigm

# Steps of scientific method



# Theoretical model



# Interpretive paradigm

- Subjective
- Attitudes, religion, ethnicity, castes, norms, customs, and other social institutions relevant to the study population is important.

# Analytical methods:

	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Analytical method</b>
1	To identify whether there is a relationship between the salary of workers and their attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In-depth interviews</li><li>• Discourse analysis</li><li>• Estimating a model</li></ul>
2	To know why was the attendance of workers decreased after the increase in salaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Case-oriented understanding: analyzing attendance records, etc.</li><li>• Narrative analysis</li></ul>
3	To explore whether there are alternative strategies to increase the attendance of workers	In-depth interviews and discourse analysis Computer-assisted qualitative data analysis (e.g. NVIVO)

# Data sources and collection methods

- Data sources
- Primary secondary

Type of data		Main feature/s	
1	Cross-sectional data	Data is collected at one point in time; it shows how the things are at that point of time	
2	Longitudinal data (Time-series)	Repeated-cross-sectional data	A survey is conducted to a new sample at successive time points
		Trend data	Data is collected over time; monthly, annually, etc
		Cohort data	Traces a sample (not the same) over time
		Panel data	Traces the same sample over time
3	Experimental data	Laboratory experiments Field experiments Randomized sampling	Data is obtained after the experiments (rarely happens in social sciences)



# Method of data collection

Collection method		Action
1	Observations	Direct observation
		Participatory observations
2	Interviews	Face to face interviews
		Telephone interviews
		Self-administered questionnaires or schedules
3	Group interviews	Delphi techniques (Experts answer the questionnaires)
		Focus groups (8 to 15)
		Brainstorming
4	Organizational assessments	Key-informant interviews
		Focus groups
5	Environmental assessment	Stakeholder analysis
		Key informant analysis
		Focus groups

# Instruments of data collection

<b>Instrument</b>		<b>Different forms</b>	
1	Questionnaire or schedule	1	Structured questionnaire (closed form)
		2	Unstructured questionnaires (open-ended form)
		3	Semi-structured questionnaires
2	Interviews-based field notes or recordings	1	Structured interviews
		2	Unstructured interviews
		3	Non-directive interviews
		4	Focus interviews
3	Observations or observation-based field notes	1	Photographs
		2	Videotapes
		3	Tape recordings, etc.

# Sample method

## Two main types:

- Probability sampling and
- Non-probability sampling

## • **Probability sampling methods:**

- Simple random sampling
- Systematic random sampling
- Stratified random sampling
- Cluster sampling
- Multi-stage sampling

## **Non-probability sampling methods**

- Convenience sampling
- Purposive sampling
- Quota sampling
- Snow-ball sampling

# Sample size in probability sampling

Sample size can be decided based on one of the following methods:

- Deciding the sample size in a judgmental or rational way
- Deciding to conduct a census when the population is very small.
- Adopting the sample size of a similar study
- Deciding the sample size using a formula: In order to know how to decide the sample size through formula, students are to refer standard books written by Cochran (1963), Yamane (1967) and later authors. However, this section presents only few formulas in order to make you understand how formula work for calculating the sample size.
- Adopting the sample size given in a calculated table (See Table 2.6 and Table 2.7).

# A sample budget format

	Description	No. of Units	Rate per unit Rs.	Amount Rs.	Sec. Total Rs.	Total Rs.
1	<b>Income</b>					
1.1						
1.2						
1.3						
2	<b>Expenditure</b>					
2.1						
2.2						
2.3						
2.4						
2.5						
	<b>Total Income</b>				<b>XXXXX.XX</b>	
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>					<b>XXXXX.XX</b>
	<b>Balance (Deficit)</b>					



## **References**

Harvard method and APA style

## **Appendices (Appendixes)**

Supplementary information required for the main points of your research proposal.



# Prescribed readings:

- American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (Sixth edition)*. Washington, DC: Author.
- Babbie, E. (1986). *The Practice of Social Research (Fourth Edition)*. California: Wadsworth Publishing Co.
- Brown, S., Fauvel, J., & Finnegan, R. (Eds.)(1981). *Conceptions of Inquiry*. New York: Methuen in Association with the Open University Press.
- Taylor, B., Sinha, G. & Ghoshal, T. (2007). *Research Methodology: A Guide for Researchers in Management and Social Sciences*. New Delhi: Prentice-Hall of India Pvt Ltd.

*Thank You*