New Trends in Educational Research
Ethnomethodological Research

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Abstract

The present paper tries to focus on the basic points such as what are ethnomethodology and its origin. The paper also focuses the views of Garfinkel and Anne Rawls views about ethnomethodology. The main thrust of this paper is how to conduct research by ethnomethodology. It explains the steps of ethnomethodological research. The paper is also focused on the nature of ethnomedological research as phenomenological and naturalistic research. It explains how theory is developed by this type of research. The present paper also states the use of ethnomethodology in improving the education system. The paper also tried to distinguish between ethnomethodology and traditional sociology.

KEYWORDS: New trend, Educational research, Ethnomethodological Research.

Ethnomethodological Research

Ethnomethodology is one of the types of qualitative research. Basically ethnomethodology is a part of cultural anthropology. Anthropology is the classification and analysis of humans and their society, descriptively, culturally, historically and physically. Ethnography is the descriptive study of living culture.

Objectives: researcher has framed following objectives-

1. To study the origin and development of the concept of Ethnomethodological Research.
2. To explore the Rawls view about Ethnomethodology research.
3. To highlight Steps of ethnomethodological research
4. To state the utility of ethnomethodology in Education system.

Origin of ethmethodology:

Ethnomethodology is an alternative approach to sociological inquiry introduced by the sociologist Harold Garfinkel. It seeks to document the methodic practices through which society’s members produce their world as sensible. The approach was originally developed by Harold Garfinkel, based on his study of: the principles and practices of financial accounting; traditional sociological theory and methods, traditional sociological concerns order”; and the phenomenologist.

The term Ethnomethodology can be broken down into its three constituent parts: ethno - method - (o) logy, for the purpose of explanation.

Ethno - refers to a particular socio-cultural group (for example, a particular, localized community of surfers);
Method- refers to the methods and practices this particular group employs in its everyday activities (related to surfing); and

(o) Logy - (from the Greek 'logos'), refers to the methodic description of these methods and practices.

The focus of the investigation of the ethnomethodological interest is in the "how" [the methods and practices] of the production and maintenance of this social order for ex. Methods for styling hair, practices employed for the wearing of swim trunks and wet suits, methods for using body languages and gesturing, etc.

Anne Rawls view about Ethnomethodology:
According to Anne Rawls- Ethnomethodology is the study of the methods people use for producing recognizable social orders.

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The fundamental assumption of ethnomethodological studies is characterized by Anne Rawls:

"If one assumes, as Garfinkel does, that the meaningful, patterned, and orderly character of everyday life is something that people must work constantly to achieve, and then one must also assume that they have some methods for doing so". That is, "... members of society must have some shared methods that they use to mutually construct the meaningful orderliness of social situations".

The goal of ethnomethodological investigations becomes the description of the methods and practices employed in the production of the orderly character of everyday life. These methods and practices are embedded in the work that people do, and realized in local settings by the people who are party to those settings.

The Approach used in ethnomethodology:
The approach used in ethnomethodology is

Input ---- Process --- Output

As stated earlier ethnomethodology studies the culture of any society ex. A study of work culture of Pune University. Ethnography is a phenomenological study. In this method the researcher is one of the parts of the study and also experiences the incidents. He experiences all the events according to his own perspective. Basically ethnomethodology is a phenomenological study so that one can explain its nature.
descriptively. The researcher here does not formulate any assumptions or hypothesis because these affect his study. The researcher manipulates various complex experiences and study holistically. The researcher uses various tools and techniques for data collection. The tools used in the study may or may not be structured or partially structured. They must be flexible. The researcher changes his hypothesis when he gets any information related to the study.

Ethnomethodology is a source of evolution of theory so the researcher has to review his information repeatedly. It is also a type of naturalistic study because the researcher here studies in natural condition. He does not manipulate any type of variable and do not try to control any situation that’s why the method is called as field research. The data collected in the study is interpreted by the researcher is depend upon the interaction in the social system. Here the view of researcher is not only to generalize but to explain a particular incident accurately and descriptively. The researcher generalizes his results when he found any exact situation. In ethnographic study there is no specific method but according to the need and objectives of the study various methods and techniques are integrated. There is no specific clarity about the title ex. A study of M.Ed. Students.

**Steps of ethnomethodological research:**

1. Selection of a problem.
2. Formulation of objectives
3. Sampling
4. Formulation of hypothesis (If necessary)
5. Tools and techniques of data collection
   
   Data is collected by using observation technique. There is no format of observation. The researcher is taking field notes. He observes the members of the society objectively. He can also record the culture. Sometimes interview schedule can be conducted but they must be open and not structured. Researcher sometimes uses triangulation method (Triangulation is the use of two or more methods of data collection in the study of some aspects of human behavior.)
6. Interpretation of data:
   
   As stated earlier it is a type of qualitative research so that statically tools are not used. Sometimes mean is used for calculation as there is coding for the responses of the members of the society.

**Differences between traditional sociology and ethnomethodology**

Two central differences between traditional sociology and ethnomethodology are:

1. While traditional sociology usually offers an analysis of society which takes the facticity [factual character, objectivity] of the social order for granted, ethnomethodology is concerned with the procedures [practices, methods] by which that social order is produced, and shared.

2. While traditional sociology usually provides descriptions of social settings which compete with the actual descriptions offered by the individuals who are party to those settings, ethnomethodology seeks to describe the procedures [practices, methods] these individuals use in their actual descriptions of those settings.
In 1967, Garfinkel states: Ethnomethodology's, "...central recommendation is that the activities whereby members produce and manage settings of organized everyday affairs are identical with member's procedures for making those settings 'account-able'" (1967:1).

Over thirty-five years later, Garfinkel states: "Phenomena of order are identical with procedures for their endogenous production and accountability" (2002:72).

Although the language has changed, the message remains the same: social orders ["phenomena of order"] are identical with the procedures [practices, methods] members of a particular social group employ to produce and manage a particular setting of organized everyday affairs. These social orders are endogenous [generated from within the particular setting], and made available for study through the demonstrable [objectified, recognizable, embodied] accounting practices of the group members party to that particular setting.

Use of ethnomethodology in Education system:
Whenever ethnomethodology is used for education system it will study any organization. Here organization means already defined structured group of people of any society interacting regularly. The organization had its own culture and the members of the organization give their responses according to their perspective. The members of the organization interact regularly to form their culture. By observing them one can study the culture of any organization.

As stated earlier education is a system. This system has its own culture. Any system work as input-process-output. To improve the quality of education one can use the ethnomethodology for solving the problems of education. The study will be helpful for creating new theories related to education system.

References