

Case Studies in Developing Countries

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Introduction

The case study has been especially used in social science research, such as, human geography, psychology, anthropology and ecology.

- Spatial unit as the case is more prominent in geography studies: Eg. Village, community

What is a Case study

Basically, a case study is an in depth study of a particular situation rather than a sweeping statistical survey.

Normally case studies take a qualitative Style

Because of this one who conduct case studies in developing countries should be familiar to culture of the people

It is a challenging task

Case study research is neither a quick nor a soft option. It requires considerable skill on the part of the researcher, who needs to be adept at identifying and analyzing data from a number of different sources

Case Studies as a Strategy

- It is a strategy used to narrow down a very broad field of research into one easily researchable topic.
- The case study research design is adopted for testing whether scientific theories and models actually work in the real world.
- It gives some indications and allow further elaboration and hypothesis creation on a subject

Case Study Types

Yin (2003) identifies three types of case studies:

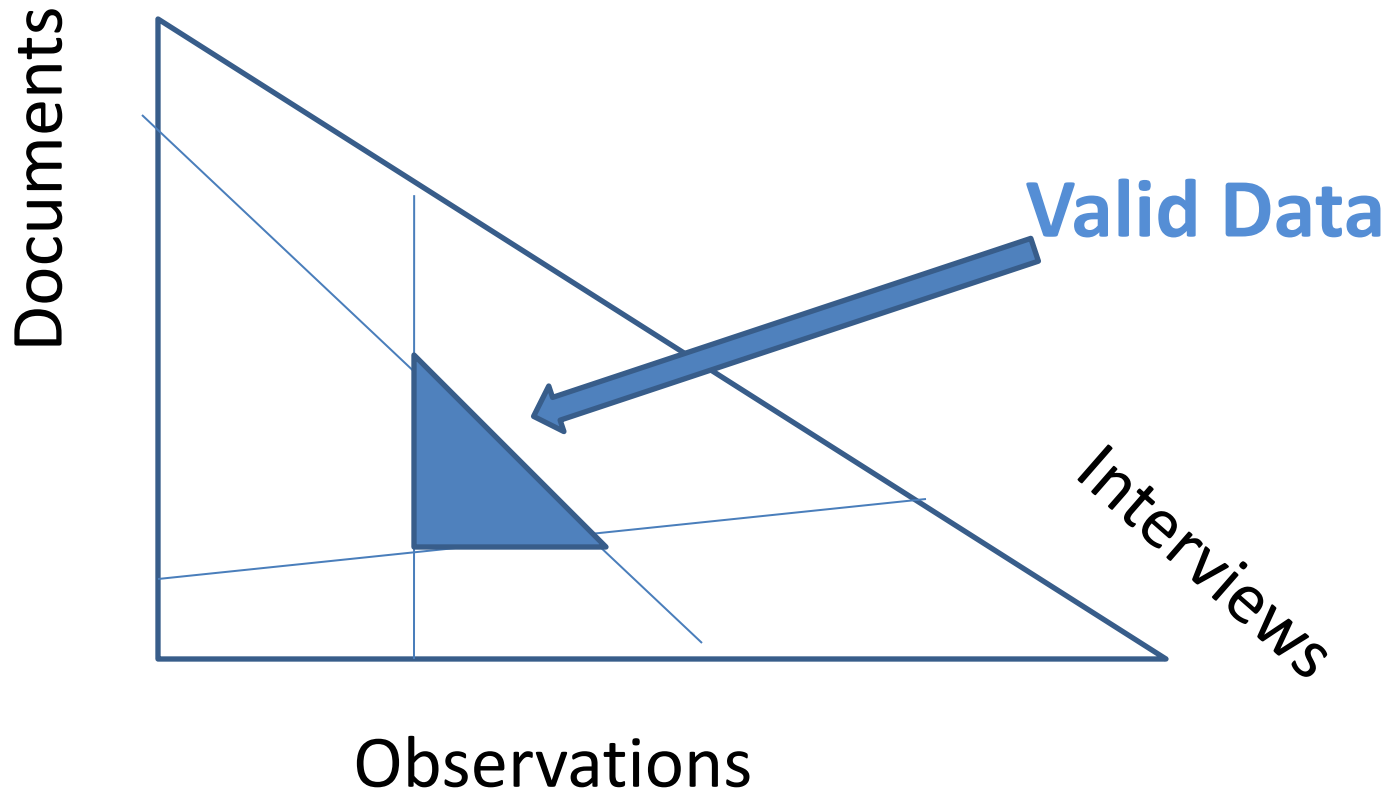
- **Exploratory the case study:** is used to define questions and hypotheses – or to test out a research procedure – for a further piece of research, such as a large-scale survey.
- **Descriptive the case study:** is used to describe a particular phenomenon within its context. It can be used to expand on a particular theme unearthed by a survey.
- **Explanatory the case study:** explores cause-effect relationships, and/or how events happen.

Case Study as a Method

- Secondary data (documents, photographs, official records)
- Observation (variants from fully participant to semi participant)
- Interviews (informal, semi-structured)

Triangulation is a must

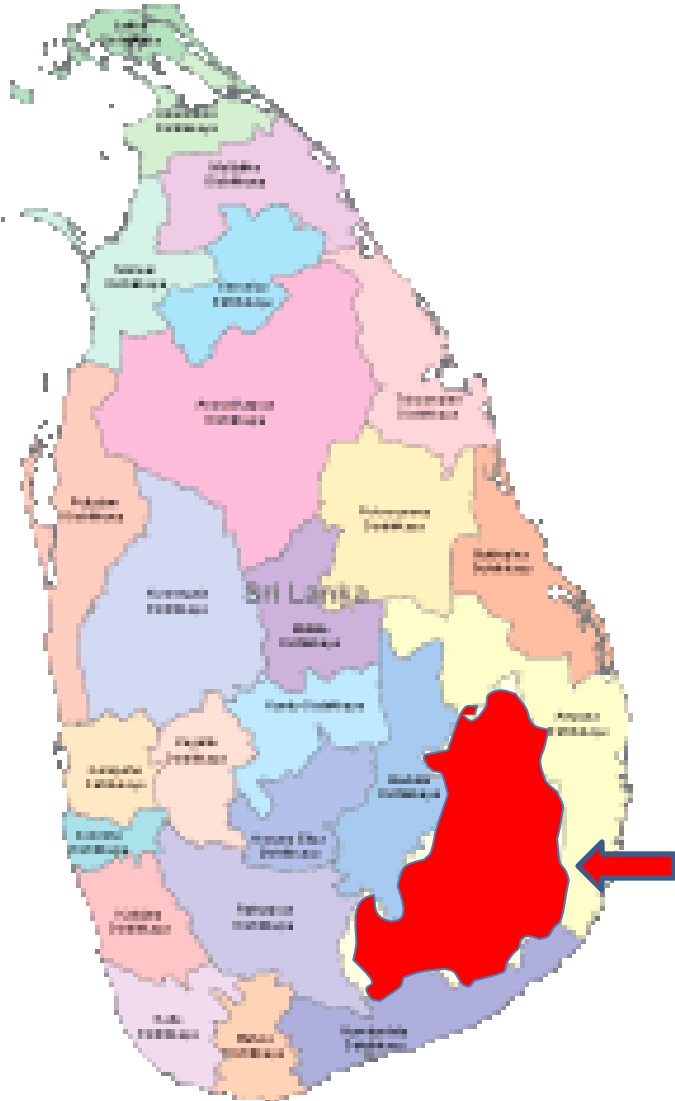
Triangulation



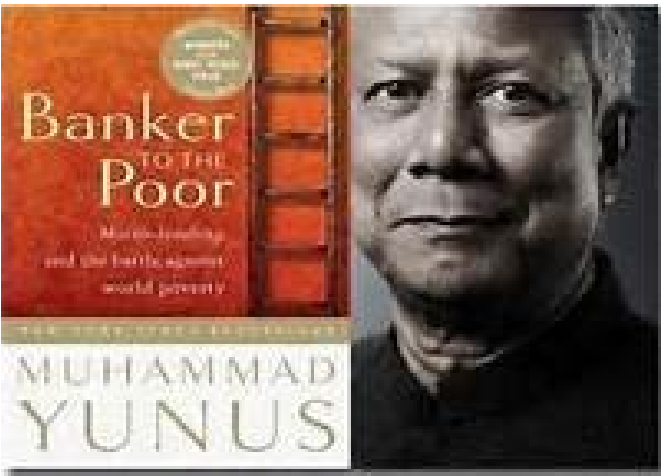
Case Study Rational

- Extreme case
- Model case
- Representative case
- Longitudinal case

Extreme Case



**Monaragala district-
Poorest district in Sri
Lanka**



Model Case for Good Community Project

Grameen Bank in Bangladesh



Grameen Bank

Case Study Research Design

- The first foundation of the case study is the subject and relevance. In a case study, you are deliberately trying to isolate a small study group, one individual case or one particular population.
- Start with the research questions
- Define spatial or temporal boundaries of the case (individual, a country, economy, community, an industry, policy, social group or organization)

Advantages of Case Study Method

1. Case studies are "real" – they offer a chance to get a snapshot of real life: a rich and thick picture. As such, they are most appropriate for dealing with a subject that is context dependent, complex, unusual, or where there is some ambiguity.

2. In direct contrast to positivist approaches, which seek to generalize, the case study offers **particularity**: i.e. the opportunity for a holistic approach without the distraction of too many variables (Gummesson, 2007).

Advantages of Case Study Method

3. Single case study can incorporate surveys, interviews, direct observation, and archival research. This offers the possibility of several different layers of analysis which can reveal several different perspectives, with the added benefit of triangulation of the results.

4. It can also be a useful method when the unit of analysis, or the subject under consideration, is a collective entity such as an organization or a community.

Limitation of Case Studies

A case study cannot be generalized to fit a whole population or ecosystem. It is considered as unique