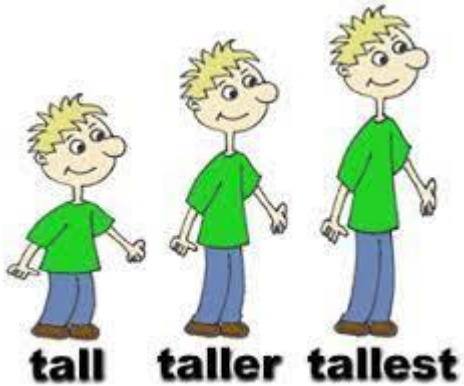


RESEARCH IN SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEMS

COMPARATIVE RESEARCH



COMPARATIVE RESEARCH - definition

= is a **research methodology** in the social sciences

= is the act of **comparing two or more things** with a view to discovering something about one or all of the things being compared.

We distinguish:

- **QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS**
- **QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS**

(you know the difference?)

Quantitative analysis is much more frequently pursued than qualitative.

Research questions, subject of investigation and objectives of comparison

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Research question:	How is it different?	Why is it different?	What effects do these differences lead to?	What can we learn from others?
Subject of investigation:	Inputs, outputs, social policy processes	External factors, conditions	Results and impacts	Combination of inputs, outputs, processes, conditions, impacts
Example:	Social policy of the state Socio-legal protection of children	Social Security Substitute family care	Social benefits Adoption Foster care	
Target:	Description	Explanation	Evaluation	Designing a solution

FRAMEWORK OF COMPARISON

Blondel (1990, IN Hozová) describes the **basic framework** of comparison following steps:

- definition of the comparison object,
- determining the goal of the comparison,
- determination of criteria for own analysis of selected objects,
- defining the relationship of the comparison to the timeline.

BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR COMPARISON

1. To place the compared phenomena side by side



2. Identification of similarities and differences between these phenomena



3. Measuring the degrees of similarity and difference



4. Understanding why differences and similarities exist, what is their importance

BASIC FRAMEWORK PHASE - DESCRIPTION:

In the first phase:

the description of the purpose of comparison and determination is to be carried out general objective,

in the second stage:

the researcher should select data for comparison and collect them,

in the third phase:

a description of the collected data is to be carried out,

in the fourth phase:

their evaluation will take place

in the last, fifth phase:

they identify themselves (by establishing and describing) similarities and differences.

PHASE OF THE BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR COMPARISON

1. The purpose of comparison and setting a general goal



2. Selection of data for comparison and their collection



3. Description of data



4. Mutual comparison



5. Identifying similarities and differences

PROCEDURE OF THE METHOD:

- **Problem identification** - this is the selection of a specific topic or problem that can be comparatively studied.
- **Hypothesis development** - this step is based on a literature review. The hypothesis should be clear and should be aimed at collecting specific data.
- **Definition of concepts and indicators** - this is an explanation and clarification of concepts, indicators and variables.
- **Case selection** - this is a careful selection of countries or regions that have a basis for comparability and are important for formulating hypotheses.
- **Data collection** - in this step, the necessary data and information are collected. Here, the researcher should consider the availability of data, its relevance and reliability.
- **Data manipulation** - this is a real comparison between systematically arranged data from different countries.
- **Interpretation of the results** - this is the assessment of the results in the study to the hypotheses, to the relevance of the findings and drawing conclusions.

LITERATURE

HOZOVA, L. (2013). Current issues of the status of comparative research in the social sciences systém. Praha: UJAK