

SC 101

Learning Activity #2

Patricia Nickles

July 11, 2019

The type of research Barbara Ehrenreich employs in her study is field research. My understanding of field research is that the researcher conducts the research in a natural environment, meeting people where they are employed, live, or recreate. The research is done in more of an informative structure versus using a survey or lab experiment method. The researcher has to step out of their own element, take on a new role of sorts, participate and experience what their subjects are in order to collect their data effectively, essentially to observe the subject's behavior in their natural environment.

Field research is good for learning how people behave, but not as helpful in learning why people behave the way that they do. Field research typically happens because the researcher wants to learn and do so through observation. The ideas for their research usually come from a simple question, such as "what does being a commercial fisherman really entail?", and usually would observe participants to conduct their research to enter the environment of the fisherman and collect the best data. This helps the researcher learn through observation in the environment of those they are studying, and they record their observations precisely. As the researcher continues to observe they may have more definite questions that come to mind. This will help the researcher develop their theory, which will lead them to putting the data they have collected in to results. Personally, I feel field work would be interesting work as it is more of a hands on approach in determining the how's and why's things.