

Empirical Political Analysis: International Edition

Empirical Evidence Information obtained through observation and documentation of certain behavior and patterns or through an experiment Written by CFI Team
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What is Empirical Evidence?

Empirical evidence is the information obtained through observation and documentation of certain behavior and patterns or through an experiment. Empirical evidence is a quintessential part of the scientific method of research that is applicable in many disciplines.

In the scientific method, the pieces of empirical evidence are used to validate or disprove a stated hypothesis, statement, or claim. In the scientific world, a hypothesis can be accepted by the community only if sufficient (empirical) evidence that supports the hypothesis is provided.

Breaking Down the Evidence

Empirical evidence is primarily obtained through observation or experimentation. The observations or experiments are known as primary sources. However, it can also be obtained through various secondary sources, including articles, reports, newspapers, etc. The process of finding empirical evidence is called empirical research.

The main concern with empirical research is the collection of unbiased evidence. Researchers must carefully design the research while minimizing exposure to potential errors. In the scientific world, it is common that several scientists or researchers gather evidence simultaneously by replicating the same study. In addition, peer review is a primary tool in science that is used to validate the evidence provided in a study or research.

Types of Empirical Evidence

The two primary types of empirical evidence are qualitative evidence and quantitative evidence.

1. Qualitative

Qualitative evidence is the type of data that describes non-measurable information. Qualitative data is used in various disciplines, notably in social sciences, as well as in market research and finance. In such fields, the research generally investigates human behavior and its patterns. The non-measurable nature of qualitative data, as well as its subjective analysis, makes it prone to potential biases.

2. Quantitative

Quantitative evidence refers to numerical data that can be further analyzed using mathematical and/or statistical methods. Quantitative data is used in

almost every discipline of science.

Unlike qualitative data, the evidence obtained using quantitative data is generally considered to be unbiased as the validity of the data can be easily verified using mathematical/statistical calculations or analysis.

Related Readings

CFI is the official provider of the Business Intelligence & Data Analyst (BIDA)® certification program, designed to transform anyone into a world-class financial analyst.

To keep learning and developing your knowledge of financial analysis, we highly recommend the additional CFI resources below:

Reference

[Biology and Treatment of Leukemia and Bone Marrow Neoplasms \(Cancer Treatment and Research Book 181\)](#)

[Say Good Night to Insomnia: The Six-Week, Drug-Free Program Developed At Harvard Medical School](#)