

Quasi-experiment

The experimenter cannot manipulate the independent variable because of practical or ethical reason.

Types of quasi-experiments are natural experiments. Participants are not aware that they are observed (it could be an ethical issue). There is an opportunity to study the effect of a stressful event (volcano).

Studies in which pre-existing groups are compared.

This method can be used either in the laboratory or in the field.

Examples

- *Studying effects of divorce on children. Comparing children whose parents had divorced with those whose parents were still married.*
- *Comparing the learning performance of males and females*
- *I would find residential nurseries that differed in some important aspect of the care provided, and examined the language development of the children.*