

## **Previous Studies**

### **1- Concept of Previous Studies**

Previous studies are a core component of scientific research. They include scholarly works that address a specific topic or closely related issues, regardless of their form of publication, provided that they represent a valuable scientific contribution. While some researchers limit previous studies to peer-reviewed research only, this criterion may be difficult to apply in certain fields due to challenges in accessing and evaluating available sources.

### **2- Importance of Previous Studies in Scientific Research**

Previous studies form the foundation of rigorous research, as they provide a reference framework for understanding the research problem in light of earlier findings. They help define the research problem accurately, identify appropriate research methodologies and instruments, avoid unnecessary duplication, and reveal research gaps that guide the study toward originality. In addition, they support the construction of a coherent theoretical framework, facilitate the interpretation of results, and enhance the researcher's critical and analytical skills.

### **3- Criteria for Selecting and Analyzing Previous Studies**

The quality of scientific research largely depends on the quality of selected references. Therefore, previous studies should be chosen carefully based on several criteria, including temporal recency, direct relevance to the research topic, scientific credibility of sources,

diversity of methods and approaches, and depth of critical analysis beyond mere description.

#### **4- Scientific Method for Presenting and Summarizing Previous Studies**

Previous studies should be presented in a concise and organized manner. This involves identifying the study's author(s), year, title, and source, clarifying its objectives, outlining the methodology, instruments, and sample, summarizing the main findings, and concluding with a critical comment that highlights the study's relevance to the current research. This section should end with an analytical synthesis that clarifies the added value and originality of the present study.