

Fig.2.1: Statistical investigation.

## Collection of Data

The process of getting values and facts from an observation or experiment is called *collection of data*.

### Primary Data

The primary data is one which is collected by the investigator himself for the first time; for example, to know the Intelligence Quotient of the students, we can give them the test and collect the relevant data by ourselves. The data so collected will be primary data. In India, there are various

*Data originally collected for investigation are known as primary data.*

agencies which collect primary data; National Sample Survey Organization is one of them; National Council of Applied Economic Research

is another and so on. Data collected in the population census constitute primary data.



The person collecting the data is called an *investigator*.  
 Primary data gives the *first hand* information. It is *original* in nature. It is *accurate* and *reliable*.

It consumes more money and time.

The amount of  $O_2$  estimated by a student by titration is a primary data. The rainfall recorded by PWD department is a primary data.

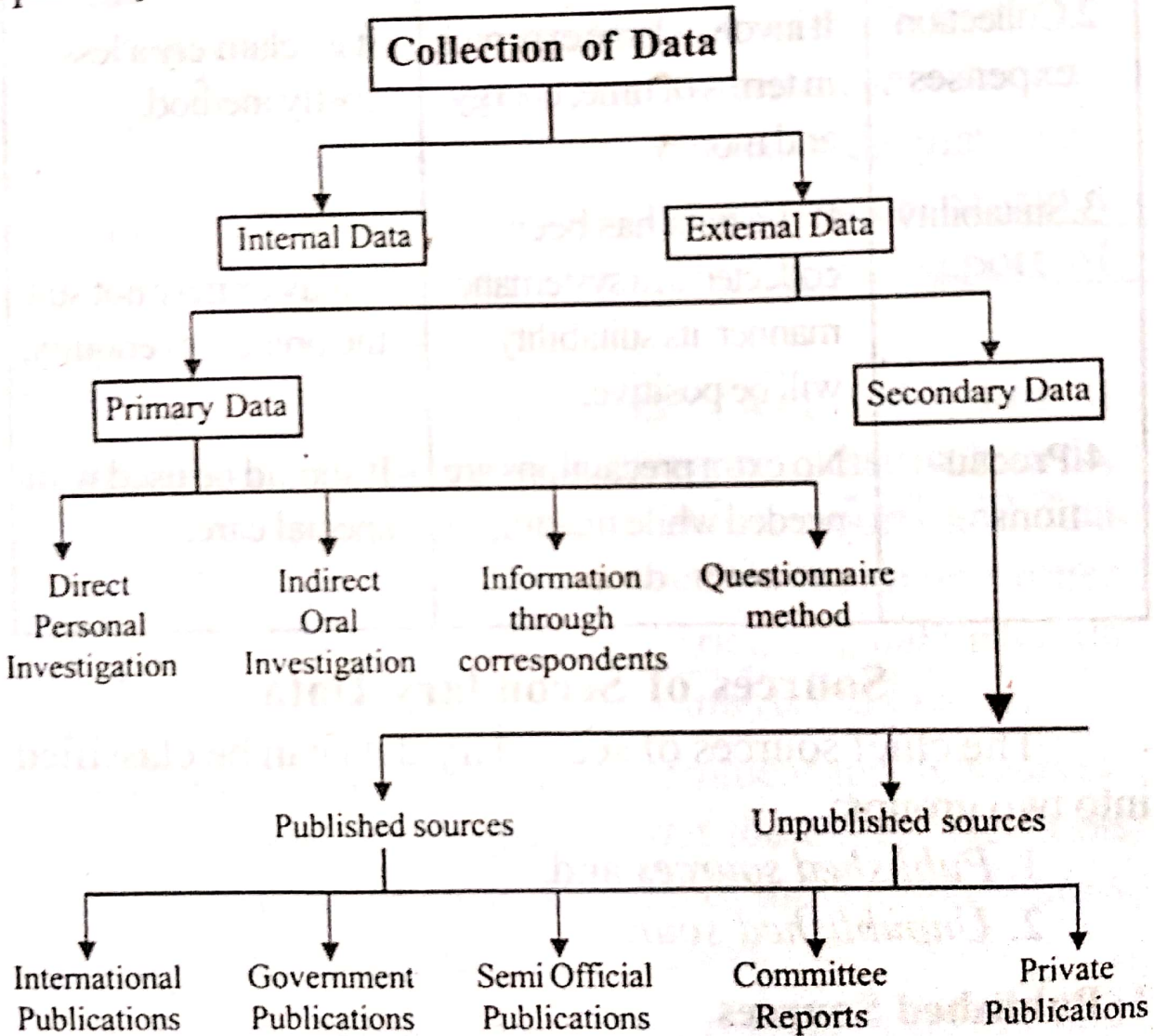


Fig.2.4: Collection of data.

### Secondary Data

Data which are obtained from published or unpublished sources are known as *secondary data*.

The secondary data is one which has already been collected by a source other than the present investigator.



Table 2.1: Distinction between primary and secondary data

Basis	Primary data	Secondary data
1. Originality	It is original, because the investigator himself collects the data.	It is not original. The investigator makes use of the data collected by other agencies.
2. Collection expenses	It involves large expenses in terms of time, energy and money.	It is relatively a less costly method.
3. Suitability	If the data has been collected in a systematic manner, its suitability will be positive.	It may or may not suit the objects of enquiry.
4. Precautions	No extra precautions are needed while making use of this data.	It should be used with special care.

### Sources of Secondary Data

The chief sources of secondary data can be classified into two groups:

1. *Published sources* and
2. *Unpublished sources*

#### 1. Published Sources

There are certain international, national and local agencies which publish statistical data on a regular basis. Certain periodicals are published regularly. Moreover, there are certain research organizations which publish magazines or other periodicals. These sources can be summed up as follows:

**1. International Publications :** Foreign Governments and International agencies publish regular and occasional reports on Economics and other related matters of significances,



council of applied Economic Research, Institute of Economic Growth, etc., are engaged in research work and publish their findings in the form of research papers and small monographs. These are perennial sources of information.

iii) **Newspapers and Magazines** : The Economic Times, Financial Express, Commerce, Transport, Business standard, Research magazines, etc., also maintain their research bureaus and publish original data on important problems.

iv) **Individual Research Scholars** : The individual research scholars of universities and other allied agencies also supply a rich material on matters of importance.

## 2. Unpublished Sources

There are various sources of unpublished data such as the records maintained by the various Government and private offices, studies made by the research scholars in the universities and other research institutions, etc.

### Precautions in the Use of Secondary Data

Before making use of the secondary data, the investigator must satisfy himself about the following:

1. Whether the data are reliable? In order to know the reliability of data, the integrity and experience of the collecting organization, the purposes, method of collection, degree of accuracy and test-checking must be ascertained.
2. Whether the data are suitable for the purpose?
3. Whether the data are adequate?