**Threats to Validity Discussion Response to another learner**

**DIRECTIONS: READ THE FOLLWING POST DISCUSSION FROM ANOTHER LEARNER AND:**

**Respond by offering another method than the one the learner mentioned to remove, eliminate, or control the threat to data validity addressed in the original post. Comment on which method you would choose and why.**

The issue of the validity of data is of paramount importance if the results of a research are to be adequately judged (Warner, 2013). It is possible to speak of the two types of validity: internal validity, that is, the degree to which the conclusions of the study reflect the real characteristics of the subjects that were examined during the research, and external validity, i.e., the degree to which the results of the study are generalizable to the broader population (Trochim, 2006).

One of the threats to the external validity of a research is the situational or contextual factors, that is, certain specific characteristics or properties of the situation in which the sample was recruited that limit the generalizability of the obtained results to the whole population. These factors can be related to the place of the study, time of the study, or the representatives of the population that were selected for the research (Trochim, 2006).

In order to enhance external validity of a study, it is possible to make an attempt to gather better data about the population. For example, sampling methods can be improved; a researcher should attempt to use random sampling techniques (Trochim, 2006), which would allow for reducing the sampling error and obtaining more generalizable results. Another way to increase the degree of external validity of a study is to carry out that study in other situations and contexts (replicate it), which would allow for demonstrating that the conclusions made in the first study can be confirmed in subsequent studies in varying contexts (or, vice versa, that they cannot be so confirmed; in this case, the low external validity of the first research would be exposed) (Trochim, 2006).

References

Trochim, W. M. K. (2006). *External validity*. Retrieved from <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/external.php>

Warner, R. M. (2013). *Applied statistics: From bivariate through multivariate techniques* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications