

**ISLAM**  
**KNOWLEDGE AND CIVILIZATION**

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## CHAPTER TWO

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FROM THE WESTERN AND ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVES

*Munawar Haque*

### INTRODUCTION

The need to understand research methodology from the Western and Islamic perspectives arises in view of the contemporary attempts of Islamisation of knowledge and the claims that Islam offers the best solutions to the problems confronting the modern world. The Islamisation of knowledge seeks to develop an Islamic paradigm of knowledge that will serve as an alternative to the secular paradigm that presently dominates the arts and sciences. It is apparent even to some of the enlightened Westerners that the philosophy of the materialistic Western civilisation is a danger to the continued existence of man. It breeds in human nature a ceaseless anxiety, a perpetual rivalry, and a degeneration of all human qualities despite the triumphs of science that could have granted peace, happiness and contentment to humanity.

This chapter attempts to clarify the theory and practice of research methodology from the Western and Islamic perspectives. It argues that the Western and Islamic approaches to methodology stem from their own particular worldviews. It highlights the pros and cons of both methodologies, and makes an effort to show that the Islamic methodology is more holistic in as much as it tries to understand the underlying reality through an integrative process of synthesis of revelation and reason. The paper also discusses the problems of the Muslim researcher and makes a few recommendations of overcoming those problems.