Generalization

Generalization is the process of drawing broad conclusions or applying findings from a specific case or limited sample to a larger population or context.

 In Scientific and Clinical Contexts: Generalization refers to the extent to which the results of a study or observation (e.g., a case report or clinical trial) can be considered applicable beyond the specific subjects or conditions studied.

⚠ Why it matters: Overgeneralization = Applying results too broadly without sufficient evidence.

Especially problematic when:

The sample size is too small (e.g., a single case report).

The context is highly specific or atypical.

Confounding variables are not controlled.

 Good generalization requires: Representative sample

Reproducible methods

Controlled conditions

Statistical validity