

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Learning objective: The main objective of this course is to impart knowledge and skills on the principals and methods of social science research. The goal of this course is to equip students with the skill to prepare a scientific research proposal and conduct social science research.

I. Scientific Methods of Research

- Definition of Scientific Research: Assumptions, Operations and Aims of Scientific Research.
- Research Processes: Conceptual, Empirical and Analytical.
- Phases of Research: Essential Criteria of Scientific Research Method.

II. Research Design

Observational Studies: Descriptive, explanatory, and exploratory, monitoring and evaluative studies.

Experimental Studies: Pre experimental design, True experimental Design, Pre-test & post-test designs, Follow-up or longitudinal design, Panel Studies.

Threat to internal validity: Reliability and Internal-External validity.

Action research studies.

III. Measurement

Reliability and validity of measurement: Face, content, construct, convergent, concurrent, and predictive validity; Inter-coder reliability, stability, non random and random errors, scaling and composite indices.

Attitudinal Scales: Point scales, ranking scales, rating scales, limitations of attitudinal scales,

Types of Scales: Nominal and Ordinal Scale, Guttman, Likert, Semantic and Thurstone scales.

IV. Methods of Data Collection

Quantitative Methods: Checklist schedules, questionnaire (mail method, interviews through telephone, internet and computers), interview schedule

(face-to-face interviews or personal interviews), Cross cultural variability and vignettes.

Questionnaire/interview schedule design and construction: Principles of constructing a questionnaire/ interview schedule, Types of questions, framing of questions (simple, delicate, personal matter), sequencing of sections and questions and Interview techniques.

Qualitative Method: Walk through and observation (participatory and non-participatory), Social mapping, key informant interview, In-depth interviews, Focus group discussion, content analysis, free listing, pile sorting, projective techniques, mechanical devices (camera, tape recorder), mystery client technique.

V. Sampling

Complete enumeration versus sampling.

Concept of sampling unit, sampling frame and sampling design.

Sampling methods: Simple random sampling, stratified sampling, systematic sampling, cluster sampling, and purposive sampling.

Multistage sampling in large-scale surveys, self-weighting designs, Stratification in multistage sampling.

Sampling and non-sampling errors, calculation of weights, sample size determination.

VI. Data Collection, processing and analysis

Research ethics; At the level of respondent, community, organization and presentation of results

Fieldwork – interaction with community and respondent.

Editing, coding, data entry, validation, processing & analysis.

VII. Writing research proposal and report

Purpose of a proposal/report

Content of proposal/report: Introduction, Review of Literature, Objectives and conceptual framework, Sources of data, Methods of data collection and analysis, Summary, conclusions and recommendations.

Footnotes, References/Bibliography, Appendices and Glossary

VIII. Research Methodology: Lab-exercise and field work

Application of Atlas Ti and ANTHROPAC in analyzing qualitative data,
Group Work- Field practices encompassing application of Research Methods

Reading List

Essential Readings :

1. Bernard, H. Russell, (1995): *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, Altamira Press, Walnut Creek.
2. Goode W J and Hatt P K. 1952. *Methods in Social Research*. McGraw Hills, New York.
3. Kish, Leslie, (1995): *Survey Sampling*, John Wiley and Sons, Inc. New York.
4. Lohr L. Sharaon., (1999): *Sampling: Design and Analysis*, Duxbury Press, London.
5. Lwanga S. K. and Lemeshow S., (1991): *Sample Size determination in Health Studies: A Practical Manual*, World Health Organization, Geneva.
6. Mukherji, P.N., (1999): *Methodologies in Social Science*, Sage Publications, New Delhi.
7. Pullum W. 2006. An Assessment of Age and Data Reporting in the DHS Surveys, 1985-2003. DHS Methodological Report No. 5. Calverton, Maryland, Marco International Inc.
8. Royce A. Singleton and Bruce C. Straits, (1999): *Approaches to Social Research*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.
9. Young P V. 1994. *Scientific Social Surveys and Research*. Prentice-Hall, New York (4th Edition).