

BA (H) Sociology
Core Course 12
Sociological Research Methods-I

Course Objective:

1. The course is a general introduction to the methodologies of sociological research. It will provide the student with elementary knowledge of the complexities and philosophical underpinnings of research.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students are introduced to sociological research both from a theoretical and methodological perspective. They understand the importance of research in social science.
2. Students develop the ability to evaluate the methodological validity of the claims made by theory.
3. The course enables students to evaluate a piece of research and move towards designing a simple research project.
4. Identify the difference between quantitative and qualitative methods.
5. Students will learn to identify ethical and practical issues in research. They also engage with the ideals of objectivity and reflexivity.
6. Students learn that research methods are universal and not bound by cultural location.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1. The Logic of Social Research

- 1.1 What is Sociological Research?
- 1.2 Objectivity in the Social Sciences
- 1.3 Reflexivity

Unit 2. Methodological Perspectives

- 2.1 The Comparative Method
- 2.2 Feminist Method

Unit 3. Modes of Enquiry

- 3.1 Theory and Research
- 3.2 Analyzing Data: Quantitative and Qualitative
- 3.3 Ethical Issues In Data Collection and Analysis

COURSE CONTENTS

Unit 1. The Logic of Social Research (Weeks 1 and 2)

1.1 What is Sociological Research?

Mills, C. W. 1959, *The Sociological Imagination*, London: OUP Chapter 1 Pp. 3-24

Gluckman, M. 1978, 'Introduction', in A. L. Epstein (ed.), *The Craft of Social Anthropology*, Delhi: Hindustan Publishing Corporation, Pp. xv-xxiv

1.2 Objectivity in the Social Sciences (Weeks 3-7)

Durkheim, E. 1958, *The Rules of Sociological Method*, New York: The Free Press, Chapter 1, 2 & 6 Pp. 1-46, 125-140

Weber, Max. 1949, *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*, New York: The Free Press, Foreword and Chapter 2 Pp. 49-112

1.3 Reflexivity

Gouldner, Alvin. 1970, *The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology*, New York: Basic Books, Chapter 13 Pp. 481-511

Unit 2 Methodological Perspectives (Weeks 8-11)

2.1 Comparative Method

Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. 1958, *Methods in Social Anthropology*, Delhi: Asia Publishing Corporation, Chapter 5 Pp. 91-108

Béteille, A. 2002, *Sociology: Essays on Approach and Method*, New Delhi: OUP, Chapter 4 Pp. 72-94

2.2 Feminist Method

Hammersley, Martyn, "On Feminist Methodology" in *Sociology*, Vol. 26, No.2 (May 1992), pp. 187-206, Sage Publications, Ltd.

3. Modes of Enquiry (Weeks 12-14)

3.1 Theory and Research

Merton, R.K. 1972, *Social Theory & Social Structure*, Delhi: Arvind Publishing House, Chapters 4 & 5 Pp. 139-171

3.2 Analyzing Data: Quantitative and Qualitative

Bryman, Alan. 2004, *Quantity and Quality in Social Research*, New York: Routledge, Chapter 2 & 3 Pp. 11-70

3.3 Ethical Issues in Data Collection and Analysis

Creswell, J W. (2009). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*, 3rd ed. Sage Publications, California, pp. 87-93.

REFERENCES:

COMPULSORY READINGS

Beteille, A. 2002, *Sociology: Essays on Approach and Method*, New Delhi: OUP, Chapter 4 Pp. 72-94

Bryman, Alan. 2004, *Quantity and Quality in Social Research*, New York: Routledge, Chapter 2 & 3 Pp. 11-70

Creswell, J W. (2009). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*, 3rd ed. Sage Publications, California, pp. 87-93.

Durkheim, E. 1958, *The Rules of Sociological Method*, New York: The Free Press, Chapter 1, 2 & 6 Pp. 1-46, 125-140

Gluckman, M. 1978, 'Introduction', in A. L. Epstein (ed.), *The Craft of Social Anthropology*, Delhi: Hindustan Publishing Corporation, Pp. xv-xxiv

Gouldner, Alvin. 1970, *The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology*, New York: Basic Books, Chapter 13 Pp. 481-511

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Merton, R.K. 1972, *Social Theory & Social Structure*, Delhi: Arvind Publishing House, Chapters 4 & 5 Pp. 139-171

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Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. 1958, *Methods in Social Anthropology*, Delhi: Asia Publishing Corporation, Chapter 5 Pp. 91-108

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Teaching - learning process

- a. A research methods course will require a robust class room discussion on various aspects of the course leading to a clearer understanding of concepts and research methods and the production of knowledge.
- b. Interactive classroom sessions contribute to the development of group skills including listening, brainstorming, communicating and negotiating with peers.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment for this course will be based on written assignments, projects, project designs and presentations.

KEY WORDS

Research, objectivity, subjectivity, reflexivity, comparative method, feminist methodology, quantitative and qualitative data, mixed methods, ethics in research.