# B. A. (H) Sociology

# Core Course 14

# RESEARCH METHODS II

## Course Objectives

1. The course provides an introductory, yet comprehensive engagement with social research.
2. Through theoretical and practical knowledge students are acquainted with the different stages of the research process like creation of research design, methods of data collection and analysis.
3. The imparted knowledge and training will enable students to develop a sound understanding of both quantitative and qualitative research.

## Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students are introduced to the concept of conducting research, which is inclusive of formulating research designs, methods and analysis of data. Some knowledge of elementary statistics is also provided to the students to acquaint them with quantification of data.
2. The thrust of the course is on empirical reasoning, understanding and analysis of social reality, which is integral to the concepts of quantitative research. Students learn to differentiate between qualitative and quantitative aspects of research in terms of collection and subsequent analysis of data.
3. Through the competing theoretical perspectives and methodologies, students are able to understand that social reality is multi-faceted, heterogeneous and dynamic in nature.
4. By imparting the knowledge of theory and praxis of research, students are prepared to arrive at a critical understanding of the course. It also equips them with necessary skills for employment in any social research organisation.

## Course Outline

### Unit 1. Doing Social Research

1.1 The Process of Social Research

1.2 Concepts and Hypothesis

1.3 Field (Issues and Context)

### Unit 2. Methods of Data Collection

2.1 Survey Methods: Sampling, Questionnaire and Interview

2.2 Observation: Participant and non-participant

2.3 Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

**Unit 3. Statistical Methods**

3.1 Overview of Statistics in Sociology

3.2 Graphical and Diagrammatic Presentation of Data

(Bar diagram, Pie-diagram, Histogram, Frequency Polygon,Smoothed frequency curve and Ogives).

3.2 Measures of Central Tendency

(Simple Arithmetic Mean, Median and Mode).

3.3 Measures of Dispersion

(Standard Deviation, Variance and Covariance).

**Unit 4. Research Projects**

**Course Content:**

**Unit 1 Doing Social Research (Weeks 1-4)**

**1.1 The Process of Social Research**

Bailey, K. (1994). *The Research Process in Methods of Social Research.* Simon and Schuster, 4th Ed. The Free Press, New York NY 10020.Pp.3-19.

**1.2 Concepts and Hypothesis**

Goode, W. E. and P. K. Hatt. 1952. *Methods in Social Research.* New York: McGraw Hill. Chapters 5 and 6. Pp. 41-73.

**1.3 Field (Issues and Contexts)**

Gupta, Akhil and James Ferguson. 1997. *Anthropological Locations.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp.1-46.

Srinivas, M.N. et al 2002(reprint*), The Fieldworker and the Field: Problems and Challenges in Sociological Investigation*, New Delhi: OUP, Introduction Pp. 1- 14.

**Unit 2. Methods of Data Collection (Weeks 5-9)**

**2.1 Survey Methods of Data Collection**

Bailey, K. (1994). Survey Sampling In *Methods of Social Research*. Simon and Schuster, 4th ed. The Free Press, New York NY 10020.Ch-5. Pp. 81- 104.

Bailey, K. (1994). Questionnaire Construction and the Mailed Questionnaire *in Methods of Social Research.* Simon and Schuster, 4th ed.The Free Press, New York NY 10020. Chs-6 and 7. Pp. 105-172.

Bailey, K. (1994). Interview Studies in *Methods of Social Research*. Simon and Schuster, 4th ed. The Free Press, New York NY 10020.Ch8. Pp.173-213.

Creswell, J W. (2009). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*, 3rd ed. Sage Publications, California. Ch 8,9,10. Pp. 145-226.

**2.2 Observation: Participant and non-Participant**

Bailey, K. (1994). Observation in *Methods of Social Research*. Simon and Schuster, 4th ed. The Free Press, New York NY10020.Ch 10.Pp.241-273.

Whyte, W. F. 1955. Street Corner Society. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Appendix.

**Unit 3. Statistical Methods (Weeks 10-13)**

**3.1 Overview of Statistics in Sociology**

Raftery A E. 'Statistics in Sociology, 1950-2000' „*Journal of the American Statistical Association*, Vol. 95, No. 450, (June 2000), pp. 654-661.

**3.2 Graphical and Diagrammatic presentation of data**

Gupta, S. P. (2007). *Elementary Statistical Methods*. Sultan Chand & Sons. Pp.101-108, 115-118, 131-137.

**3.3 Measures of Central Tendency**

3.3.1 Gupta, S. P. (2007*). Elementary Statistical Methods*. Sultan Chand & Sons. Pp. 155-168, 173-180, 187-197.

**3.4 Measures of Dispersion**

Gupta, S. P. (2007). *Elementary Statistical Methods*. Sultan Chand & Sons. Pp. 263-277.

**Unit 4. Research Projects (Week 14)**

No Specific readings for this section. Research Projects at the discretion of the teacher.

Note: Numericals to be taught for individual, discrete and continuous series for the topics mentioned above. No specific method for calculating the same be specified.

**Teaching-Learning Process:**

1. Classroom lectures interlink the sociological theories previously taught with the methods and techniques of data collection. Students are encouraged to construct questionnaires and conduct interviews, use technology like online surveys to develop practical research skills.
2. The use of statistics enables the students to understand both qualitative and quantitative aspects of social research.
3. Alternative pedagogical techniques like outdoor learning through field trips and research projects, audio-visual technology in classrooms provides them with both research related knowledge and experience.

**Assessment Methods:**

1. Tutorials are given regularly to students after the completion of a topic. The objective is to assess the understanding of the student regarding the covered topic.
2. Students are expected to submit individual/team project reports, along with making oral presentations of the same in class.
3. Periodic tests/mid-semester examination of the covered syllabus is also undertaken by the students during the academic session. End-semester examination is conducted by the University of Delhi.

**Keywords:**

Research, methods, techniques, quantitative, qualitative, empirical, field, concepts, hypothesis, sample, observation, statistics, survey, questionnaire, interview, graphs, tables, diagrammatic presentation, measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion.