

BA 7th SEMESTER (NEP)

Subject	Sociology (core)
Paper Title	Research Methodology
Paper Code	SOCR101
End Sem Marks	70
In Sem Marks	30
Credit	4

Course Objective:

The course provides an exposure to the fundamentals of social science research methodology. It begins with a discussion on some important philosophical ideas underlying the emergence of different methodologies in social sciences. This course aims to familiarise the students to the different approaches in understanding and explaining social phenomena besides sensitising them to the relationship between theory and research. It also aims to acquaint students with the fundamentals of the quantitative and qualitative techniques of research.

Learning outcome:

By the end of this course, students will be able to :-

- systematically design, execute, and analyze social science research using both quantitative and qualitative paradigms while adhering to high ethical standards.
- Identify ethical dilemmas in research and apply ethical principles (informed consent, anonymity, and do-no-harm) to potential research scenarios.
- Navigate the SPSS interface to perform basic data entry, variable coding, and descriptive statistical analysis.
- Construct a formal research report and apply standard referencing styles (e.g., APA, MLA, or Chicago) to document sources correctly.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of how qualitative data analysis software (e.g., NVivo or ATLAS.ti) assists in managing and coding non-numerical data.

Unit I: Introduction to Research

- a) The concept of research, characteristics of good research, Application of Research
- b) Meaning and sources of Research problem, characteristics of good Research problem
- c) Research process, outcomes, application of Research,
- d) Importance of Review of Literature, Organizing the Review of Literature.
- e) Ethics in Research

Unit II: Designing Social Science Research

- a) Meaning and importance of research design
- b) Types of research design- Exploratory, Descriptive, Casual research Design
- c) Components and features of research design
- d) Concept of sampling and sampling methods

Unit III: Quantitative Methods

- a) Quantitative: Survey research
- b) Measurement and Scale
- c) Methods of Data Collection: Structured Interviews, Structured Observation
- d) Quantitative Data Analysis: Introduction to SPSS
- e) Report writing and Referencing

Unit IV: Qualitative Approaches and Methods

- a) Ethnography
- b) Methods of Data Collection (Interviews, Observation (participant & non-participant), Focus Group Discussion, Case Study, Oral History, Life History.)
- c) Content Analysis, Narrative Analysis, Conversational Analysis, Discourse Analysis.
- d) Introduction to Qualitative Data Analysis software

Suggested Readings:

- Bryman, A. (2011). Social Research Methods. London: Oxford University Press.
- Blaikie, N.(2000). Designing social research: the logic of anticipation. Malden, MA : Polity Press.
- Babbie, E.R. (2010). The Practice of Social Research. USA: Wadsworth: Cengage Learning.
- Chalmers, A.F. (1999). Science as knowledge derived from the facts of experience. In What is this thing called science. (3rd Ed.) (pp.1-18). Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company Incorporated.
- Denzin Norman K. and Yvonna S. Lincoln.(2000). Handbook of Qualitative Research. Sage: London.
- Durkheim, E. (1958). The Rules of Sociological Method. New York: The Free Press. Geertz, C. (1973). Interpretation of Cultures. New York: Basic Books.
- Goode, W.J. and P. K. Hatt.(2006). Methods in Social Research (Indian reprint). New Delhi: Surjeet Publisher.
- Jackson, Alecia Y. and Lisa A. Mazzei. (2012). Thinking with Theory in Qualitative Research: Viewing Data across Multiple Perspectives. Routledge.
- Kuhn, T. S. (1970). The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. London: The University of Chicago Press.
- Malcolm, W. and T. May. (1996). Introduction. In Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Research (pp. 1-12). London: Routledge.

Marvasti, Amir. (2004). *Qualitative Research in Sociology (Introducing Qualitative Methods series)*. Sage Publications.

Marx, K. (1974). *Forward and Introduction*. In *Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy*. London: Penguin Books in association with New Left Review.

Merton, R. K. (1972). *Social Theory and Social Structure*. Delhi: Arvind Publishing House.

Mukherjee, P.N. (Ed.) (2000). *Methodology in Social Research: Dilemmas and Perspectives*. New Delhi: Sage.

Myrdal, G. (1970). *Objectivity in Social Research*. London: Gerald Duckworth.

Neuman, W.L. (2006). *Social Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approach*. New Delhi: Pearson Education India.

Popper, K. (1999). *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*. London: Routledge.

Silverman, David. (1993). *Interpreting Qualitative Data*. London: Sage.

Srinivas, M.N. and A.M. Shah. (2010). *Field Worker and the Field*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Vaus, D.A. (1986). *Surveys in Social Research*. London: George Relen and Unwin Hughes.

Weber, M. (1949). *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*. New York: The Free Press.