

PAPER-II METHODOLOGY OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

Objectives

The course plan aims to provide exposure to the fundamentals to various research techniques and methods (both quantitative and qualitative). It tries to build upon the basic assumptions in adopting different methodology for different kinds of research themes. In the first section, it introduces certain philosophical ideas underlying the emergence of different methodologies in social sciences. The second and third sections attempt to sensitize post-graduate students to develop a critical outlook at the existing perspectives and methods and to evolve conceptual clarity, which can lead them in their future research. Teaching certain quantitative methods, statistical techniques and qualitative methods to collect and analyze the data would help them organize and analyze the information gathered by them. Exposure to the fieldwork at the post-graduate level is intended to enhance the research interest and inculcate the spirit of inquiry among students who may be motivated to continue higher studies in research.

UNIT-I Philosophical Roots of Social Research

Issues in the theory of epistemology : forms and types of knowledge, validation of knowledge.

Philosophy of social science : Enlightenment, reason and science, Cartesian philosophy, structure of scientific revolution (Kuhn).

Positivism and its critique : Contributions of Comte, Durkheim and Popper to Positivism; Critique of Positivism : Feyerabend and Giddens.

Hermeneutics : inductive analysis, experiments in ethno-methodology, because of and in order to motive in phenomenological sociology. Methodological Perspectives in Sociological Theory.

UNIT-II Nature of Social Reality and Approaches to it :

Positivism, Phenomenology, Ethnometodology and Symbolic Interactionism Interpretative understanding.

Logic of Unquiry in social science research

Inductive and deductive

Theory building Scientific method in social research

Objectivity value neutrality

Hypothesis

UNIT-III Quantitative Methods and Survey Research

Assumptions of quantification and measurement

Survey techniques

Operationalisation and research design

Sampling design

Questionnaire construction, interview schedule

Measurement and Scaling

Reliability and Validity

Limitations of Survey

The use of computer for social analysis

Statistics in social research

Measures of central tendency. Mean, median, mode

Measures of Dispersion : Standard/Quartile Deviation

Correlational Analysis. Tests of Significance and Covariance

Regression Analysis

UNIT-IV Qualitative Research Technique

Techniques and methods of qualitative research.

Participant observation tethnography, interview guide

Case study method

Content analysis

Oral history, narratives

Life history generalogy

Methodological dilemmas and issues in qualitative research

Encounters and experience in field work.

Qualitative data format and processing.

Validity and reliability in qualitative research.

UNIT-V

Methods and use of macro-statistics and secondary sources (Durkheim's suicide, census, NSS).

Triangulation - Mixing qualitative and quantitative methodologies

Social Research, Action Research, Participatory Research

Ethical Issues in Social Research