

Unit I: Introduction to Scientific Methods - Research philosophy and approaches- ideology, paradigm, post-modernism, positivism, interpretivism, realism, rationalism- scientific methods - objectivity, verification, replication, sense perceptions- deduction and induction. cycles, verifiability, falsifiability, theory, facts and hypotheses, qualities of sound theory and hypotheses.

Unit II: Research Design - Broad types - Exploratory, Descriptive and Explanatory - design for evaluating programmes and practice - Experimental, Quasi- experimental, Single- case evaluation design, programme evaluation

Unit III: Survey Research: The process of survey research - problem identification and formulation, conceptualization, objectives, concepts, variables, operational definition, developing hypothesis, reliability and validity - mail surveys, online surveys, interview surveys, telephone surveys, comparison of the different survey method - Strengths and weaknesses of survey research, use of surveys in need assessment - Sampling methods - Probability and non-probability sampling.

Primary and Secondary methods of data collection-interview schedule and Self administered Questionnaires, checklist - Errors in personal human enquiry - Professionalism and research in Social Work- Critical thinking, reflexivity and research- Social Work research as a Social Practice-Ethical issues in research

Unit IV: Case Study Design - Brief introduction-Difference between case study and survey (sample or census)

- (i) Conceptualizing a case study: Identifying the focus of the study, the areas of study and lines of inquiry; Review of literature; conceptual framework. Case studies and Theories-Explanation: Theory building theory testing
- (ii) Types of cases(individuals, movements, incidents, legislative processes, decision making, institutions, riots etc)
- (iii) Designing a case study: developing a research strategy, principle of saturation, specifying the role of the researched and the researcher, and insider/outsider perspectives;
- (iv) Methods of data collection: participant observation, life histories, in-depth/unstructured interviews, group interviews and focus group discussions, and community-based participatory methods and techniques; Aggregates and available data, Principles of triangulation
- (v) Role of quantitative data analysis in case study design
- (vi) Data processing and analyses; preparing narrative data texts, developing coding categories, use of matrices, memoing, and findings to develop field-based conceptualizations;
- (vii) Writing up of qualitative analysis – insider/ outsider perspectives, interactive process between the researcher and the researched, self-reflectivity, and working towards the development of field-based theory

Unit V: Statistics - Data Processing- Coding, Data entry in SPSS software, tabular and graphic presentation of database.

Analysis of Data: Levels of Measurement (Nominal, ordinal, interval and ratio)

Descriptive Statistics: A brief idea on measures of Central tendencies- mean, median and mode; measures of dispersion- range, mean deviation, Standard deviation

Hypothesis testing: Chi square test/ t-test/ ANOVA

Research Reporting: Explanations and Writing Social work Research reports

Survey Method

References

1. Grinnel Jr & Williams (1988): Social Work Research and Evaluation US :Peacock
2. Grinnel Jr & Williams (1990):Research in Social Work, A primer, Illinois: Peacock
3. Rubin & Babbie (2010): Methods for Social Work Research, New Delhi: Cenage Learning India
4. Rubin & Babbie (2011) Methodology for Social Work Research, New Delhi: Cenage Learning India

Suggested Reading

1. Alston Margaret (2007): Research for Social Work New Delhi: Rawat
2. Bryman Alan (2008): Social Research Methods, III Edition New York: Oxford University press
3. D ' Cruz Heather & Jones Martyn (2004): Social Work Research, New Delhi: Sage
4. Good & Hatt (2006): Methods in Social Research, New Delhi:Surjeet
5. Krishnasamy O.R & Ranganatham M (2007):Methodology of Research, New Delhi: Himalayan
6. Lal Das D.K (2008): Research Methods for Social Work, New Delhi: Rawat
7. MC Burney Donald H (2002): Research Methods, United States: Thomson Wordsworth
8. Craft John. L. (1990): Statistics and Data Analysis for social workers. Illinois : Peacock
9. Weinbach Robert W & G (1997): Statistics for Social Workers, New York : Longman

Case Study Design

References

1. Bryman, A. and Burgess R.G.,Analyzing Qualitative Data, Routledge (UK).
2. Taylor, S. and. Brogdan. R. (1984) Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods: The Search for Meanings. New York. John Wiley and Sons.

Suggested Readings

1. Strauss, A. Basics of Qualitative Research (1990): Grounded Theory, Procedures and Techniques, Newbury, Sage.
2. Thomas. R.M. (2003) 'Blending Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods in Theses and Dissertations', Corwin Press.
3. Vila, P. (2003) Ethnography at the Border, University of Minnesota Press.