



UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, MEGHALAYA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Program Name: MA in Sociology

Course Name: Research Methodology (MSO-301)

Theory

Credit:4

Course Objectives:

Research in any discipline is of utmost requirement for the development of the discipline and of the societies. This course aims to provide an understanding of the nature of social phenomena, the issues involved in social research and the ways and means of understanding and studying social reality.

The Successful completion of this course shall enable the student

CO1. To introduce Philosophical Roots of Social Research and Nature of Social Reality.

CO2. To introduce various methodological perspectives in social research.

CO3. To give the students an all-round idea related to practice of various research methods.

CO4. To introduce on Macro data and Data Analysis

Course Contents:

Unit I Philosophical Roots of Social Research and Nature of Social Reality (15 hrs + 5 hrs)

Issues in the theory of epistemology - forms and types of knowledge;

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

Meaning and nature of social research - Nature of social phenomena and Logic of Inquiry in social science research, Scientific method, Objectivity and subjectivity, facts and value, Reliability and Validity;

Inductive and deductive research, Theory building, Hypothesis.

Unit II Methodological Perspectives

(15 hrs + 5 hrs)

Positivism, Phenomenology, Ethnomethodology and Symbolic Interactionism;

Interpretative understanding;

Hermeneutics - inductive analysis, experiments in ethno-methodology, 'because of' and 'in order to' motive in phenomenological sociology;

Feminist methodological perspectives;

Post-Structuralism and Post Modernism.

Unit III Quantitative methods and survey research and Qualitative Research Techniques

(15 hrs + 5 hrs)

Assumptions of quantification and measurement, Research design and its types, Sampling design; Techniques of data collection - Questionnaire, interview schedule, interview; Measurement and Scaling, Limitations of Survey;

Techniques and methods of qualitative research - Participant observation/ethnography, interview guide; Case study method, Content analysis, Oral history, narratives, Life history,

genealogy; Methodological dilemmas and issues in qualitative research; Encounters and experiences in field work; Qualitative data format and processing;

Unit IV Macro data and Data Analysis

(15 hrs + 5 hrs)

Methods and use of macro-statistics and secondary sources - Durkheim's suicide, census, NSS; Triangulation – Mixing qualitative and quantitative methodologies; Social Research, Action Research and Participatory Research; Data analysis, Report writing, and Bibliography and References; Ethical Issues in Social Research;

Suggested Reading

Bose, Pradip Kumar, 1995: Research Methodology. New Delhi: ICSSR.

Kothari, CR, 2012, Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques, New Age International Pvt. Ltd.

Young, PV, 2010, Scientific Social Survey and Research, PHI Learning Pvt. Ltd., N Delhi.

Barnes, John A. 1979. Who Should Know What? Social Science, Privacy and Ethics, Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Benton, Ted. and Craib, Ian. 2001. *Philosophy of Social Science: The Philosophical Foundations of Social Thought*. New York: Palgrave.

Beteille A, and T.N. Madan. 1975. Encounter and Experience: Personal Accounts of Fieldwork. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd.

Bleicher, M. 1988. The Hermeneutic Imagination. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Bryman, Alan. 1988. Quality and Quantity in Social Research, London: Unwin Hyman.

Corbetta, Piergiorgio. 2003. *Social Research: Theory, Methods and Techniques*. New Delhi: Sage.

Feyerabend, Paul. 1975. Against Method: Outline of an Anarchistic Theory of Knowledge. London: Humanities Press.

Hawthorne, Geoffrey, 1976. Enlightenment and Despair: A History of Sociology, Cambridge: Cambridge University.

Kuhn, T. S. 1970. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. London: The University of Chicago Press.

Madge, John. 1970. The Origins of Scientific Sociology. London: Tavistock.

Marsh, Catherine. 1988. Exploring Data. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Michael, A Malec, 2012. Essential Statistics for Social Research, Rawat, Jaipur.

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

Popper K. 1999. The Logic of Scientific Discovery. London: Routledge.

Punch, Keith. 1986. Introduction to Social Research, London: Sage.

Robert, Dentier, 2012, Practicing Sociology: Selected Fields, Rawat, Jaipur.

Shipman, Martin. 1988. The Limitations of Social Research, London: Longman.

Smelser, Neil J. Comparative Methods in Social Science.

Srinivas, M.N. and A.M. Shah 1979. Field Worker and the Field. New Delhi: Oxford

Srinivas, MN, Shaw, AM & Ramaswami, EA, 2002, The Field workers and the field. OUP, N Delhi.