

SWC-109: SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

(2 Credits/50 marks/24 hours)

Introduction:

The course helps develop an understanding of the research process and acquire the attitudes and skills essential for social work research. Students would develop skills in interpretation, documentation and presentation of results of the research.

Learning Objectives:

- To comprehend the importance of research as a social work method
- To be familiar with various research designs, methods, statistical tools and techniques relevant to social work research
- To cultivate research abilities through appropriate application

Pedagogy:

Classroom lectures, classroom assignments

Module I - Introduction (6 hours)

Linkages between research and Social Work practice; role of research in policy formulation, and programme planning, implementation and evaluation. Types of social work research - need assessment studies, situational analysis, monitoring and evaluation, impact assessment, policy research.

Module II: The Process of Quantitative Research (6 hours)

Conceptualizing Quantitative Studies: problem identification and formulation; objectives, concepts, variables, hypotheses and assumptions; Designing Qualitative Studies: Types of Research Designs, and their Scope, identification of sources of data (primary data and secondary data); Methods and Tools of Data Collections; Selection of Sample; Data Processing Techniques; Analysis of Data: Levels of Measurement, Descriptive Statistics, Measures of Dispersion, hypothesis testing and interpretation of findings; Reporting Results of Quantitative Research

Module III: The Process of Qualitative Research (10 hours)

Conceptualizing qualitative studies: identifying the focus of the study, the areas of the study and lines of inquiry ; Designing qualitative studies : developing a research starter , theoretical sampling, specifying the role of researched and researcher, and insider/ outsider perspectives; Methods of data collection; participants observation, life histories, in-depth / unstructured interview, group interview and focus group discussion and community based participatory methods and techniques; Data processing and analysis; preparing narrative data text, developing coding categories, use of matrices, and integrating findings to develop field based conceptualizations; Writing up qualitative studies

Module IV: Research Reporting: (2 Hours)

Outline of report, editing, Manual of style, Preparing research abstract, Dissemination of research findings.

Recommended Readings:

- Ahuja, Ram. 2001 *Research Methods*, Jaipur: Rawat Publications.
- Alston, M. Bocoles, W. 2003. *Research for Social Workers - An Introduction to Methods*, Jaipur: Rawat Publications.
- Baker, Therese L., *Doing Social Research*, Singapore: McGraw Hill.
- Jacob, K. K., *Methods and Fields of Social Work in India*, Bombay: Asia Publishing.
- Kothari, C. R. 2004. *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques*, 2nd edition reprint, New Delhi: New Age International.
- Laldas, D.K. *Research Methods for Social Work*, Sage.
- Rubin, Allen and Babbie Earl, 2001. *Research Methods for Social Work*, 4th Ed. Wadsworth, West, Brooks/Cole and Schirmer,
- Young, Pauline, 1960. *Scientific Social Surveys and Research*, Asian student's edition, Japan: Asia Publishing House.