

HMS 5203 – SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL APPLICATIONS

Course Objectives

- Develop an understanding of scientific approach to human inquiry
- Acquire the required skills and knowledge to use appropriate statistical methods in the field
- Develop ability to conceptualize, formulate and conduct simple research projects/exercises
- Understand the importance of Quantitative and Qualitative research in Social Work

Course Outline

Unit 1 Introduction to Social Research

- Definitions and Objectives of Social Research and Social Work Research Nature and Scope of Scientific Enquiry
- Basic Elements of Scientific Method: Concepts, Conceptual and Operational Definitions, Variables, Assumptions, and Hypothesis
- Review of Literature
- Identification and Formulation of Research Problem, and Objectives Reliability and Validity
- Ethical considerations in Research

Unit 2 Research Process

- Research Design: Definition and Importance
- Types of Research: Explorative, Descriptive, Diagnostic, Experimental, Evaluation, Participatory, Intervention and Action Research
- Sources and Types of Data: Primary and Secondary; Methods – Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Methods
- Sampling: Definition, Purpose and Types- Probability and Non-probability Sampling Tools of Data Collection: Questionnaire and Interview schedule
- Steps and guidelines in the construction of Research Instruments Research Proposal: Major steps in the construction of a Research Proposal

Unit 3 Qualitative Research Methods for Social Work Nature, Concept and Definition of Qualitative Research Advantages and disadvantages of Qualitative Research

- Tools of Data Collection in Qualitative Research: Observation, Focus Group
- Discussion, In-depth Interview, Case Studies.
- Possible biases and measures to ensure objectivity- Triangulation

Unit 4 Quantitative Analysis and Statistical Procedures Purpose, Use and limitations of statistical methods Data processing, tabulation and presentation

- Descriptive Statistics: Measures of Central Tendency- Mean, Median, Mode
- Measures of Variability: Range and Standard Deviation; Normal distribution Inferential Statistics: Correlation-Meaning and Scope
- Significance Tests: Pearson's Chi-Square and 't' test, Use of Software Packages in Data Analysis - SPSS Interpretation and presentation of the statistical findings

Unit 5 Qualitative Data Analysis and Research Report Qualitative Data Analysis and Interpretation of the Findings Major Components of a Research Report

- Formats for Presentation the Report

- Need and Importance of referencing in research Major referencing styles – APA, Harvard and MLA

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