

## SSW 5203 – SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL APPLICATIONS

### Course Objectives

- Develop an understanding of scientific approach to human inquiry
- To acquire required skills and knowledge to use appropriate statistical methods in the Field.
- Develop ability to conceptualize, formulate and conduct simple research projects/exercises
- To understand the importance of Quantitative and Qualitative research in Social Work.
- To understand the relevance and the application of Statistical Software Packages like SPSS in Social Work Research.

### 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

### References:

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