

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 and application of Statistical Software Packages like SPSS in Social Work Research.

Course Outline

Unit I 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 II 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 III 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 IV 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 V 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

- Course Outcome**
- Outline the ways to employ scientific approach to human inquiry
 - Critically use the statistics skills and knowledge to conduct field study.
 - Conceptualize, formulate and conduct simple research projects/exercises
 - Apply Quantitative and Qualitative research in Social Work and appropriately use the Statistical Software Packages like SPSS in Social Work Research.

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