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Pre-PhD Course-Work Syllabus

Department of Sociology
Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar

Paper-1

Research in Social Sciences: Foundations & Applications

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Objective:

To introduce to the students the basics of research, the processes of doing research from designing to operationalizing and to develop among them the skill to write various forms of write-ups to disseminate their research outcomes.

Learning Outcomes:

After going through this paper, the enrolled student will:

1. Get to know the various theoretical foundations that have been laid down by the theories to undertake empirical research in social science.
2. Develop a clear understanding about the types of research, with their areas of application.
3. Gain knowledge on the entire research process from the conceptualization of an issue till drawing the conclusion along with the operationalization process in the field to data collection and data analysis procedures.
4. Develop competency in writing different types of research papers.

Unit-1-

- Approaches to Research- Positivist, anti-positivist, Paradigms of Research
- Types of Research- Basis/Fundamental Research, Analytical Research, Action Research, Evaluative Research

Unit-2-

- Research Process and Key Components- Choosing a research topic, Pre-study/ Pilot Study, Research design, Deciding the universe and Drawing the sample
- Research Methods- Qualitative & Quantitative, Research tools and Tool Testing

Unit-3-

- Operationalizing Research- Approaching the field and testing the tools, Finalization and administration of the tools
- Data Collection, Data Analysis, Drawing Conclusion

Unit-4-

- Proposal Writing & Synopsis Writing
- Report Writing, Thesis Writing, Article Writing

Paper-2

Writing Reviews

Objective:

To develop among students the ability to search relevant literature, to put them into order in their research write-ups and to present them adequately and critically in their research writings.

Leaning Outcomes:

After going through this paper, the student will:

1. Get used to the identification, browsing, and giving proper academic recognition to the literature in his/her own work.
2. Enskill himself/herself in using software to navigate various search engines and locate the grey areas.
3. Develop the writing skill for various skill for various types of academic writing.
4. Master the competency of presenting the reviews in the most systematic manner in his/her write-ups or presentations.

Unit-1-

- Review of Literature- Need of Review, Process of doing a review, Writing a review
- Referencing Style, Foot note & End note, Reference & Bibliography

Unit-2-

- Using Soft wares to prepare a good review of literature
- Review Grid, Identifying the grey areas after the review

Unit-3-

- Writing a book review
- Writing a term paper

Unit-4-

- Presentation of reviews on particular topic

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Paper-3
Research and Publications Ethics

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Objective:

To train the students to undertake ethical research with honesty, honoring the intellectual property rights of the previous authors and ensuring dignity and honor to the subjects under study.

Leaning Outcomes:

After going through this paper, the student will:

1.   Get a fair stock knowledge on intellectual honesty and research integrity.

2.   Acquaint themselves with the incidences of scientific misconduct which they need to avoid during their research process.

3.   Get to know standards of publication ethics and the ways for ensuring plagiarism free research writings.

Unit-1-

- Introduction to Ethics- Definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgments and reactions
- Intellectual honesty and research integrity

Unit-2-

- Scientific Misconduct- Falsification, Fabrication and Plagiarism(FFP)
- Redundant Publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami Slicing, Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data

Unit-3-

- Publication Ethics- Definition, Introduction and Importance, Best practices/ standards setting initiatives and guidelines- COPE, WAME etc
- Publication Misconduct- Definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa types, Violation of Publication ethics, authorship and contributiorship, Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals, predatory publishers and journals

Unit-4-

- Open access publications and initiatives, Journal finder/ journal suggestion tool viz, JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc, Complaints and appeals: Examples and fraud from India and abroad
- Use of Plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund and other open-source software tools, conflicts of interest

<center>**Paper-4**</center>

<center>**Basic Statistics and Computer Application**</center>

Objective:

To ensure among the students a basic level of knowledge on various statistical tools and techniques for the numerical presentation of their research findings.

Leaning Outcomes:

After going through this paper, the student will:

1. Develop basic competencies in applying rudimentary statistics to treat their research findings.
2. Develop knowledge on basic computer use and their application for dealing with robust data.
3. Be competent in developing good proposals and making captive presentations.

Unit-1-

- Basic statistics for social science research- Mean, Median and Mode
- Standard Deviation. Chi square test

Unit-2-

- Computer Application- Need and Use
- SPSS

Unit-3-

- Presentation (25 Marks)

Unit-4-

- Proposal Writing (25 Marks)