

CORE COURSE – XIII – RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Module -1

Science – its meaning and characteristics – The meaning of ‘research’ – Specific features of research in Social Sciences as opposed to Physical and Natural Sciences – Objectivity in research – Basic categories in scientific method – Facts – Concepts – Causality – Uncertainty – Probability – Dialectical and Historical Materialism.

Module -2

Methods of Research – Falsification and verification criterion (Karl Popper) - Paradigm Shift (Kuhn) - Deductive and inductive Reasoning – Steps of Scientific Method – Historical Method – Case study – Scaling Techniques – Sample surveys – Various sampling methods – Importance of proper sampling design.

Module -3

Steps in Research – Formulation of a Research problem – Guiding principles in the choice of a research topic – Role of Review of Literature – Formulation of Research Design – Model building – Hypothesis: concept, definition, formulation and testing.

Module -4

Secondary data – some important sources: NSSO, CSO, Economic Survey, Season & Crop Report, Agricultural Census, Livestock Census, Annual survey of Industries, RBI Reports, WDR, HDR, IDR; Primary Data collection – Tools – observation, schedule, questionnaire, projective techniques – Principles underlying construction of a questionnaire – Preparation of master table – Data processing – Analytical Tables.

Module - 5

Report writing – Structure and General format – Style – Use of footnotes – citations – Presentation of tables, diagrams, charts and maps – Bibliography.

Reference:

1. Ghose, B.N., Scientific Method and Social Research, New Delhi, Sterling Publishers, 1982.
2. Goode, W.J. & Hatt, P.K., Methods in Social Research, New York, McGraw Hill, 1952.
3. Kate Turabina, Manual of style for writing dissertations, thesis and reports, University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
4. Myrdal, G. Objectivity in Social Research.
5. C.T. Kurien (Ed.), A Guide to Research in Economics (Sangam Publishers).
6. Wilson Gee, Social Science Research Methods, (N.Y. Appleton Century Croft, 1950).
7. Pauline V. Young, Scientific Social Surveys and Research.
8. Parson, C.J., Thesis and Project Work.
9. Karl Popper, The Logic of Scientific Discovery, (Lond. Hutchinson, 1934).
10. T.S. Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, (Chicago, 1962).