

**Code: ECON-203**

**Title: Research Methods- I**

**Credit Hours: 03**

**Prerequisite: Elementary Statistics**

**Objectives:**

The primary objective of this course is to develop research orientation among the students and to acquaint them with fundamentals of research methods. Specifically, the course aims at introducing the students to the basic concept of research methodology. The students will be able to define a research problem by learning the concept of problem identification. Tools and techniques for developing a questionnaire (instrument) and designing a good research will be discussed in detail.

**Course Contents**

**Introduction to Research Methods**

Why study research methods? Aims and objectives, Central issues of research, Descriptive analysis, Meaning of research, Objectives of research, Types of research, Research approaches, Research methods versus research methodology, Research and scientific methods, Research process.

**Defining the Research Problem**

Defining a research problem, Selecting the problem, Techniques involved in defining a problem.

**Problem Identification**

Defining the area of interest, the relationship between theory and method, what makes a problem/ topic interesting? What is researchable? Feasibility...The 'so what?!' factor the value of simplicity.

**Research Questions**

General and specific research questions, Developing research questions in different situations, Role of research questions.

**Research Design**

Meaning of research design, need for research design, Features of a good research design, Important concepts related to research design, Different research designs, Basic principles of experimental designs.

### **Elements of Research Design**

Units of analysis, variables, Relationships, Statistically significant relationship, Research purpose and research design, Qualitative research design, Quantitative research design.

### **Research Method**

Overview of research methods, Quantitative (multivariate) methods, Qualitative (interpretive) methods, using available data, Multi-method and applied research methods.

### **Research Ethics**

Plagiarism, Treatment of human subjects, making ethical decisions, Uses of research: Science and society.

### **Proposal Writing**

How to draft a quality research proposal?

### **Recommended Books:**

- Kothari, C.R, (2008). *Research methodology: Methods and techniques*. New Delhi, New Age International Publishers.

### **Additional Reading:**

- Sekaran, U. (2006). *Research methods for business: A skill building approach*. Singapore, John Wiley and sons
- Teddlie, C., & Tashankkori, A. (2009). *Foundations of mixed methods research: Integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches in the social and behavioral sciences*. Sage Publication
- Singleton & Straits. *Approaches to social research* (5th ed.). Oxford University Press