

GEOG. 433 RESEARCH METHODS

Course Brief:

The purpose of research is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures. The main aim of research is to find out the truth, which is hidden, and which has not been discovered yet. Each research study has its own specific purpose, we may think of research objectives are to create awareness among students regarding basics of geographical research.

Course Learning Objectives:

To gain familiarity with a phenomenon or to achieve new insights into it (studies with this object in view are termed as exploratory or formulative research studies); To portray accurately the characteristics of a particular individual, situation or a group (studies with this object in view are known as descriptive research studies); To determine the frequency with which something occurs or with which it is associated with something else (studies with this object in view are known as diagnostic research studies); To test a hypothesis of a causal relationship between variables (such studies are known as hypothesis-testing research studies).

Course Contents:

I- Introduction to Research.

- i. Meaning, definitions and scope of research.
- ii. Methods of research
- iii. Objectives and purposes of research.
- iv. Application of research method in geography.
- v. Advanced research in geography.

II Types of Research.

- i. Basic versus applied research.
- ii. Historical research.
- iii. Descriptive research.
- iv. Correlational research.
- v. Causal – comparative research.
- vi. Experimental research.
- vii. Qualitative and quantitative research.

III Research Problem

- i. Selection.
- ii. Sources.
- iii. Characteristics/Criteria.

Statement of problem.

IV Review of Related Literature

- i. Definition, purpose and scope.
- ii. Preparation.
- iii. Sources.
- iv. Abstracting.
- v. Reporting.

V Research Hypo Thesis or Question

- i. Definition and purpose.
- ii. Characteristics.
- iii. Types of hypotheses.
- iv. Stating the hypothesis/question.

VI Research Plan and Objectives

- i. Formulation of research plan or research design.
- ii. Formulating research objection.

VII Sampling

Definition and purpose.

- a. Types/Techniques of sampling.
- b. Sampling techniques and geographic research.

VIII Research instruments

- a. Purpose of research instruments.
- b. Characteristic of research instruments.
- c. Types of research instrument.
 - i. Questionnaire.
 - ii. Interviews.Observation.
Documents.
Tests.
- iv. Important tools for geographic research.

IX Collection and Analysis of Data

Data collection

Tabulation of data

Data analysis

Interpretation of data

Statistical techniques and data analysis

Data collection and analysis in geographic research

X Writing Research Proposal and Report

- i. General rules for writing and typing
- ii. Format and style
- iii. Types of research reports
- iv. Evaluation of research report
- v. Theses and dissertation
- vi. Journal's articles
- vii. Paper read at professional meetings

Recommended Books:

- Therese L. Baker (1999) Doing Social Research, 3rd Edition Boston; McGraw Hill.
- Nicholas J. Clifford & Gill Valentinc (2003) Key Mthods in Geography, Sye Publications, London, 1st Edition
- Keith Hoggart, Loretta Lees & Anna Davies (2002) Researching Human Geography, Arnold Publishers, London, 1st Edition.

- Dr. K. L. Narasimha Murthy (1992) Research in Geography: A Survey 1st Edition; Ashish Publishing House, New Delhi.
- Research in Education by John W. Best & James V. Kahn, 7th Edition (2003) 7th Edition Printice Hall Private Ltd. New Delhi.
- Martyn Densombe (2003) The Good Research Guide: for Small Scale Social Research Projects. 2nd Edition, Open University Press Phila Delphic.
- Ackerman, Edward A.; 1958 Geography as a Fundamental Research Discipline, University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Croxton, F.E. & Cowden, D.J.; 1955 Applied General Statistics Isaac Pitman, London.
- Ebdon, D.; 1977 Statistics in Geography, Basil Blackwell Oxford.
- Gay L. R.; 1992“Educational Research: Competencies for Analysis and Application” Fifth edition, Macmillan Publishing Company,
- Gee, W. 1950 Social Science Research Method, Appleton Century Crofts, Inc. New York.
- Gregory, S.; 1973 Statistical Methods and the Geographers, Longman London.
- Hammond, R.E. Mc. Cullagh; 1978 Quantitative Techniques in Geography, Clarendon Press, Oxford.
- Hartshorne, R. Perspective on the Nature of Geography, John Murray London.
- Huff, D.; 1973 How to Lie with Statistics, Hammonds-worth, Penguin.
- James, P.E. & Jones C.F; 1954 American Geography, Inventory & Prospects, University Press, Syracuse.
- James, P.E. New Viewpoints in Geography, National Council for the Social Studies Washington.
- Norcliffe, G.B.; 1977 Inferential Statistics for Geographers Hutchins London.
- Plate, R.S.; 1959 Field Study in American Geography, Illinois, University Press Chicago.
- Taylor, P.J.; 1977 Quantitative Methods in Geography, Houghton Mifflin Boston.
- Walker; 1963 The Nature of Scientific Thought, Prentice Hall New Jersey.
- Wright; 1951 Aids to Geographical Research, Columbia University Press New York.
- Young, P.V.; 1956 Scientific Social Surveys & Research, Prentice Hall New York.

Assessment			
Sr. No.	Elements	Weightage	Details
1.	Midterm Assessment	35%	Written Assessment at the mid-point of the semester.
2.	Formative Assessment	25%	Continuous assessment includes Classroom participation, assignments, presentations, viva voce, attitude and behavior, hands-on-activities, short tests, projects, practical, reflections, readings, quizzes etc.
3.	Final Assessment	40%	Written Examination at the end of the semester. It is mostly in the form of a test, but owing to the nature of the course the teacher may assess their students based on term paper, research proposal development, field work and report writing etc.