

SEMESTER-V

CPSY-315

RESEARCH METHODS-I (Theory)

Credit Hour: 3

Type: Major

Course Objectives

This Course aims to: familiarize Students with major concepts of research methodology i.e. from generating research idea to data collection, analysis and interpretation of findings. The Course aims to develop scientific reasoning and understanding of links between theory and empirical investigation. Equip them with expertise of examining strengths and weaknesses of methodologies drawn from qualitative and quantitative traditions. Enable Students to make choice of appropriate methods to plan and execute research projects.

Course Contents

- **Introduction**

- Goals and Assumption of Scientific Methods

- Scientific Method: Salient features

- Limitations of the use of Scientific Method in Psychology

- Types of Research: Basic & Applied: Qualitative & Quantitative

- From theory to testable hypothesis

- Variables and measurement

- **Sources of Research Ideas**

- Observation

- Theory

- Searching the literature

- Personal Interest

- **How to Conduct Literature Review**

- Professional review

- Literature review

- Online literature search: Science Direct, Ebscohost, Blackwell-Synergy,

- Psychinfo, Psycharticle, Medical Index, and other related data bases

- **Formulation of a Hypothesis**
 - Importance of Hypothesis
 - Types of Hypothesis
 - Formulation of Hypothesis
 - Characteristics of a good Hypothesis
- **Research Process/Steps in Research**
 - Formulating Problems Statement
 - Operational Definitions of Concepts, Variables and Constructs
 - Variables and Types of variables
 - Introduction and Review of Research Literature
 - Theoretical Framework
- **Quantitative Research Methods**
 - Survey method
 - Experiments
 - Correlational studies
- **Sampling Methods**
 - Selecting Research Participants
 - Sample Planning
 - Define the population and sample
- **Probability Sampling Methods**
 - Simple random sampling
 - Systematic random sampling
 - Stratified random sampling
 - Cluster sampling
- **Non-probability Sampling Methods**
 - Quota sampling
 - Snow ball sampling
 - Purposive sampling
 - Convenience sampling
- **Ethics in Psychological Research**
 - APA Ethical Guidelines for Research with Humans and Animals
 - Ethics in planning research
 - Ethics in execution of research: Informed consent, Deception, Coercion, Anonymity, Risk assessment, Debriefing

Ethics in Writing and Publishing: Plagiarism, reporting results, credit of authorship, Copyrights

Course Outcomes

At the completion of the Course the Student will be able to get knowledge of research concepts and processes and they will be able to critically evaluate different research methods. They will also be able to make decisions and follow steps involved in designing and executing a research plan. Design, conduct, analyze and interpret findings of an empirical investigation. Read through and evaluate research papers in scientific journals and identify ethical concerns in a research study.

Recommended Books:

- Breakwell, G. M. (2012). Research methods in Psychology. (4th ed.). Los Angeles: Sage Publications.
- Devellis, R. F. (2012). Scale development. (3rd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage Publications. Evans, A. N. (2011). Methods in psychological research. (2nd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage Publications.
- Flick, U. (2011). Introducing research methodology. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.
- Gelfand, H. (2010). Mastering APA style. (6th ed.). Los Angeles: Sage Publications. Goodwin, C. J. (2002). Research in Psychology: Methods and design. (3rd ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Malhomes, V. (2010). Applied research in child and adolescent development. New York: Psychology Press.
- Mcbride, D. M. (2013). The process of research in Psychology. (2nd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage. Publications.
- Mook, D. G. (2001). Psychological research: The ideas behind the methods. New York. John Wiley & Sons.
- Nestor, P., & Schutt, R. (2012). Research methods in Psychology: Investigating human behavior. USA: Sage Publications.
- Reis, H. T., & Judd, C. M. (2000). Handbook of research methods in social and personality Psychology. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.
- Shaughnessy, J. J., Zechmeister, E. B., & Zechmeister, J. S. (2014). Research methods Psychology. (9th ed.). Singapore: McGraw-Hill.