

Course Code: ECON-318

Title: Research Methods- II

Credit Hours: 03

Prerequisite: Research Methodology-I

Course Objectives:

Research methods II is divided into two main parts. Part I includes measurement of variables, operational definitions and scales, reliability and validity, data collection methods (primary, micro and macro) and sampling methods. Part II covers basic quantitative and qualitative data analysis using statistical software, elements of research proposal and steps in report writing.

Learning Objectives:

In this course students will learn how to

- Define and clean data
- Work with secondary data to conduct research analysis.

Course Contents:

Part I	
Measurement: Scaling, Reliability and Validity	Four types of measurement scales and their properties. Rating scales: definition and its types. Ranking scales: definition and its types. Examples and exercises to practical scales. Construct validity: internal and external. Goodness of measures, reliability and stability measures.
Data Collection Methods	Sources of data, experiments, survey design, field study, methods of collecting primary and secondary data, guidelines for questionnaire design, quantitative data collection, qualitative data collection, mixed data collection techniques, selection of appropriate method for data collection.
Sampling	What is sampling process? Defining population, determining sampling frame, sampling design and appropriate sample size.

	Discussion on simple random sampling, systematic sampling, clustered sampling, convenience sampling, quota sampling, judgement sampling and snowball sampling. How to select appropriate sampling technique? Issues of precision and confidence in determining a sample size.
Part II	
Quantitative Data Analysis	Coding and data entry in statistical software. Getting a feel for the data: frequencies, summary measures, bar charts, pie charts. Relationship between two nominal variables: chi-square test. Correlations and testing goodness of measures using statistical software. Basic regression analysis.
Quantitative Data Analysis: Hypothesis Testing	Basic concepts and procedure for hypothesis testing, type I and type II errors, statistical power choosing appropriate statistical technique: univariate versus multivariate. Test of hypothesis about mean and difference between means, Test of hypothesis about proportions and difference between proportions, variance, equality of variance, and correlation coefficient. Limitations of test of hypothesis.
Qualitative Data Analysis	Three important steps in qualitative data analysis: data reduction, data display and drawing conclusions. Coding and qualitative data entry in statistical software. Reliability and validity in qualitative research. Compare and contrast content analysis, narrative analysis and analytic induction.
Research Proposal	Meaning and need of research proposal, steps in writing a research proposal, layout of research proposal, types of research proposal and oral presentation.
Steps in Report Writing	Abstract, introduction, literature review, methods and data collection, findings and interpretation, conclusion, suggestions, future prospects, references.

Teaching Methodology:

- To deliver lectures on topics included in course outline
- To require each student to solve independent assignments on topics included in the course.
- To require each student to work on independent research project with data analysis.

Evaluation Criteria:

Evaluation Method	
Quizzes/Assignments	
Mid-Term Exam	
Final-Term Exam	

Recommended Books:

- Kothari, C. R (2008). Research methodology: Methods and techniques. New Delhi, New Age International Publishers.
- Saunders, M. (2005). Research methods for business studies. Singapore, Pearson Education
- Monette D. R., Sullivan, T.J., & Dejong, C.R. (2010). Applied social research: A tool for the human services. Belmont, CA: Linda Schreiber-Ganster.
- Sekaran, U. (2006). Research methods for business: A skill building approach. Singapore, John Wiley and sons.