

Course Code: ECON-203

Title: Research Methods- I

Credit Hours: 03

Prerequisite: Elementary Statistics

Course 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, research methods I aims at introducing the basic concept of research methodology, hallmarks of scientific research, hypothetico-deductive and inductive method of research, review of literature, bibliography manager software, components of theoretical framework, hypothesis formulation and elements of research design.

Learning Outcomes:

In the course the students should be able to:

- Define a research question
- Write a research proposal
- Perform literature search
- Review, summarize and synthesize paper found in search
- Present the information in a variety of formats to a variety of audiences.

Course Contents:

Introduction to Research	Meaning of research, objectives of research, research methods versus research methodology, types of research in three perspective. Application perspective: basic versus applied research. Objective perspective: qualitative versus quantitative research types. Mode of enquiry perspective: structured and unstructured approach. Classification of research, inductive versus deductive logic. Time in research: cross sectional versus longitudinal.
Scientific Investigation	The hallmarks of scientific research: purposiveness, rigor, testability, replicability, precision and confidence, objectivity, generalizability and parsimony. The seven-step process in hypothetico-deductive method: identification of broad problem area, defining problem statement, developing hypothesis, determine measures, data collection, data analysis and interpretation of data. Some obstacles to conducting research in economics.
Research Questions	How problem can be translated into problem statement? General and specific research questions, developing research questions in different situations, role of research questions. Basic types of questions: exploratory and descriptive.
The Critical Literature Review	What is literature review? How to approach the literature review? Evaluating the literature and documenting the literature review. Familiarization with APA citation format for referencing relevant material. Ethical issues: plagiarism. Introduction to bibliography manager software.

Theoretical Framework and Hypothesis Development	Need of theoretical framework in deductive research, definitional concept of theoretical framework, four main types of variables: dependent, independent, moderating and mediating. How theory is generated? The components of a theoretical framework. Hypothesis development: directional and non-directional hypothesis.
Elements of Research Design	Research strategies: experiment, survey research, observation, case studies, grounded theory, action research and mixed methods. Extent of researcher interference with the study. Study setting. Units of analysis: individuals, dyads, groups, organizations and cultures. General overview of research methods, quantitative (multivariate) methods, qualitative (interpretive) methods and mixed methods.

Teaching Methodology:

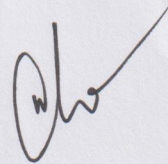
- To deliver lectures on topics included in course outline
- To require each student to solve independent assignments on topics included in the course.
- To work on an independent research project.

Recommended Books:

- Greenlaw, S., Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Carrying Out Economics Research, South Western Cengage Learning.
- William, G., Zikmand, Business Research Methods, 7th Edition.
- Kothari, C.R, (2008). Research methodology: Methods and techniques. New Delhi, New Age International Publishers.

Additional Readings:

- Sekaran, U. (2006). Research methods for business: A skill building approach. Singapore, John Wiley and Sons.
- Teddlie, C., & Tashakkori, 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 edition.). Oxford University Press



Head,
School of Economics
University of the Punjab
Quaid-I-Azam Campus Lahore