

# A Short Course on Social Research Methods

## Introduction

The course on Social Research is a systematic, theoretical analysis of approaches which are functional in the field of research, data gathering and typically knowledge seeking. The research methods employed are associated with most academic disciplines and will seek to inform the student about multiple techniques to appropriately manifest gathered knowledge. Typically, the course will encompass paradigm, theoretical and conceptual model, phases (steps), qualitative, quantitative and mixed methodology techniques. Appropriately placed the course will outline, communicate and practically showcase all facets included in research. A methodology does not seek to give answers; however, it will offer theoretical footing for comprehending which method or set of methods is applicable in a social context and specific case.

## Course Objectives

Following will be the course objectives:

1. To understand the fundamental concepts and principles of social research, including research designs, data collection methods, and ethical considerations in research;
2. To develop knowledge and skills in quantitative and qualitative research methods, including data collection methods and analysis;
3. To understand the ethical considerations in social research;
4. To develop skills for structured reporting and presentation; and
5. To apply social research skills to varied areas, such as program evaluation, or community-based research.

## Course Outlines

### Module-1

- Defining Research, scope, intent, validity and usage of research and gathering of knowledge in an ever-changing globe.
- Defining and explaining the philosophical concepts of Ontology and Epistemology (raising the query for knowledge).

## **Module-2**

- Differentiating between exploratory, explanatory and descriptive research
- Identifying the cultural contexts and concepts of a research idea, formulating it into a research question or hypothesis to be answered or tested.

## **Module-3**

- Discussing the Sampling methods (How to establish a coherent sample for research?). Sampling Population (calculating an appropriate population which aligns with our research question or hypothesis)
- Comprehending sampling techniques, (seeking answers from the population and procedures embedded within quantitative and qualitative research) Judged sample vs inclusion/exclusion criteria

## **Module-4**

- Data collection methods, integration, tests and data analysis techniques.
- Appropriate methods of Scale development, survey questionnaire and interview guide

## **Module-5**

- Research Ethics (consideration of boundaries, reporting true data, informed consent) and implications

## **Module-6**

- Explaining the various methods of data analysis in quantitative research through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (applying tests, review, margin of error and interpretation of results) and Qualitative research thematic analysis, narratives and content analysis.

## **Module-7**

- Research Report/Dissertation Organization
- Referencing formats (APA and other formats)

## **Module-8**

- Designing and testing research skills learnt over the entire course.

## **Learning Outcomes**

1. Enable to design a research (quantitative, qualitative, mixed method) in a systematic manner in the area of social and health sciences
2. Demonstrate an ability to plan and implement social research for their own thesis/dissertation, adhering to the principles of social research.

## **Duration**

- Total duration of the course will be 8 weeks or two months
- The entire course will be divided into 8 modules and the students will be promoted in the next module once they will pass the previous one.
- Classes will be held twice a week, and the duration of each class will 3 hours.

## **Who should apply?**

Undergraduate (completed at least 6 semesters) and graduate students from the social and health sciences disciplines, who are pursuing their dissertation, and beginner researchers and professionals are encouraged to apply for the courses.

## **Required Set-up**

A classroom with a capacity of 40 students along with multimedia and internet facility is required twice a week for the implementation of course modules.

## **Fee Charges**

- The fee for the said course will PKR=15,000/ per participant.