Research Methodology

PhD, December 2012 – January 2013

Faculty: Dr. Neerpal Rathi

Nature of course:
Research Methodology is a hands-on course designed to impart education in the foundational methods and techniques of academic research in social sciences and business management context. Research scholars would examine and be practically exposed to the main components of a research framework i.e., problem definition, research design, data collection, ethical issues in research, report writing, and presentation. Once equipped with this knowledge, participants would be well-placed to conduct disciplined research under supervision in an area of their choosing. In addition to their application in an academic setting, many of the methodologies discussed in this course would be similar to those deployed in professional research environments.

Course objectives:
The primary objective of this course is to develop a research orientation among the scholars and to acquaint them with fundamentals of research methods. Specifically, the course aims at introducing them to the basic concepts used in research and to scientific social research methods and their approach. It includes discussions on sampling techniques, research designs and techniques of analysis. Some other objectives of the course are:

- To develop understanding of the basic framework of research process.
- To develop an understanding of various research designs and techniques.
- To identify various sources of information for literature review and data collection.
- To develop an understanding of the ethical dimensions of conducting applied research.
- Appreciate the components of scholarly writing and evaluate its quality.

Pedagogy
Teaching methods include readings, lectures, group discussions, exercises, and assignments. Lectures are designed such that ensure greater scholar participation.
Evaluation
Assignments
Presentation
End-Term Paper

Course contents:

1. Introduction to research – The role of research, research process overview
2. Philosophies and the language of research theory building – Science and its functions, What is theory?, and The meaning of methodology
3. Thinking like a researcher – Understanding Concepts, Constructs, Variables, and Definitions
4. Problems and Hypotheses – Defining the research problem, Formulation of the research hypotheses, The importance of problems and hypotheses
5. Research design – Experimental and Nonexperimental research design, Field research, and Survey research
6. Methods of data collection – Secondary data collection methods, qualitative methods of data collection, and Survey methods of data collection
7. Attitude measurement and scaling – Types of measurement scales; Questionnaire designing – Reliability and Validity
8. Sampling techniques – The nature of sampling, Probability sampling design, Non-probability sampling design, Determination of sample size
9. Processing and analysis of data
10. Ethical issues in conducting research
11. Report generation, report writing, and APA format – Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Methodology, Results, Discussion, References, and Appendices

Recommended Texts


