

# SA 535: Research Methods in Sociology and Anthropology

## Course Objectives

The main aim of the course is to familiarize the students with basic sociological and anthropological research methods. The course focuses on the concepts, techniques and tools of research methods, data analysis and research writing.

### Unit I. Introduction (20)

- A. What is a social research?
- B. Why do we carry out social research?
- C. How do we carry out our social research?
  - The initial research idea and topic and its justification
  - Literature review, i.e. what have others said about this research topic?
  - The research problem and its social and theoretical justification or significance; research objectives
  - Clarification of concepts, indicators and operationalization (where necessary)
  - Information or data collection techniques and their justification
  - Collection of primary ('field') and secondary ('documentary') information: Sources and rules of access
  - Data analysis
  - Presentation of finding, including the social and theoretical significance of findings
- D. Disciplinary, interdisciplinary and problem oriented social research
- E. Ethical issues in social science research
- F. Sociological/anthropological research trends in Nepal

### Unit II. Metatheory and Research (15)

- A. Interrelationship between metatheory and research agenda
- B. Structural-functional, cultural-ecological, Marxist, symbolic interactionist, ethno methodological and feminist metatheories and corresponding research protocols
- C. Induction, deduction and generalization
- D. Interpretation

### Unit III. Research Designs (10)

Fundamental features, strengths and limitations of exploratory, descriptive, explanatory, experimental and semi-experimental, cross-sectional, historical/longitudinal, and comparative research designs

### Unit IV. Measurements and Relationships (15)

- A. Concepts: types and difficulties in defining concept.
- B. Variable: qualitative and quantitative; independent and dependent; indicators

- C. Measurement: postulates and levels of measurement (nominal, ordinal, interval and ratio) and corresponding modes of data analysis
- D. Reliability: test and improvement of reliability.
- E. Validity: content, construct and criterion validity and validation
- F. Relationship: symmetrical, asymmetrical and reciprocal relationship; correlation, causality and spurious interpretation
- G. Control: notion and significance; techniques for controlling variable(s)

**Unit V. Qualitative Data Generation Techniques (20)**

- A. Field-site selection; Entry into the field: rapport building
- B. Field work and ethnographic research
  - Observation and participant observation
  - Genealogical methods
  - Case studies and life histories
  - Interviews ( formal, informal and key informant)
  - Archival study
  - PRA, RRA and AIA
  - Limitations of qualitative research tools and techniques

**Unit VI. Qualitative Data Analysis (20)**

- A. Paradigms in Qualitative Research
- B. Qualitative data analysis: coding, transcribing, and interpretation
- C. Traditions and Approaches:
  - Ethnographic accounts
  - Narrative analysis
  - Content analysis
  - Conversation analysis
  - Discourse analysis
  - Documentary research

**Unit VII. Quantitative Data Generation Techniques (20)**

- A. The significance and utility of quantitative methods
- B. Survey methods:
  - Rational and features of survey research
  - Preparation, planning and execution of survey research: design and planning phase, data collection phase, and data analysis and reporting phase
  - Survey designs: self administered surveys, face to face interviews, telephone surveys, computer- assisted telephone interviews and internet surveys
  - Survey Instruments: questionnaire, interview schedule and check list; reliability and validity of the instruments
  - Problems and issues in executing survey research: locating and accessing the respondents and field settings; implementation of data collection techniques; role of field investigators; interviewer bias

- Uses and limitations of survey methods
- C. Sampling Methods: probability and non-probability designs; uses and limitations of specific sampling designs; sample size; sampling bias and error
- D. Questionnaire and structured interview schedule : preparation, types, uses and limitations
- E. Limitations of quantitative research tools and techniques

### **Unit VIII. Quantitative Data Analysis (25)**

- A. Organizing and summarizing data: editing, coding, and processing
- B. Displaying data: tables, graphs, histograms and pie-chart
- C. Descriptive statistics: frequency distribution of grouped/ungrouped data; construction and reading of tables; ratio, proportion and rate; measures of central tendency; measures of dispersion
- D. Measures of association between nominal or qualitative variables: assumptions, calculation and interpretation of chi-square statistic and test.
- E. Measures of association between ordinal and interval/ratio variables: assumptions, calculation and interpretation of Spearman's rank order and Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient

### **Unit IX. The QualQuan Approach (5)**

- A. Combining qualitative and quantitative research tools and techniques
- B. Combining qualitative and quantitative research analysis

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

### **Unit I. Introduction**

1. Neuman, W. Lawrence. 1997. 'The meaning of methodology.' Pp. 60-87 in *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
2. **Therese L. Baker**. 1994. *Doing Social Research*, New York: McGraw-Hill. Pp. 3-5.
3. Peter Berger. 'Invitation to Sociology. Pp. 5-10 in **Ron Matson** (ed.), *The Spirit of Sociology: A Reader*. Delhi: Pearson Education. 2005. First Indian reprint.
4. C. Wright Mills. 'The sociological imagination.' Pp. 11-20 in Ron Matson
5. W. Richard Stephens, Jr. 'Careers in sociology.' Pp. 21-9 in Ron Matson
6. **David Dooley**. 1995. *Social Research Methods*. Pp. 2-10.
7. Manicas, Peter. 'The social sciences Since World War II: The Rise and Fall of Scientism. Pp. 7-31 in **William Outhwaite and Stephen P. Turner** (eds.) *The SAGE Handbook on Social Science Methodology*. London: SAGE. 2007.
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9. Immanuel Wallerstein. 1996. *Open the Social Sciences: Report of the Gulbenkian Commission on the Restructuring of the Social sciences*.
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11. Baker, Pp. 38-42 and 50-68.
12. Tulsi Ram Pandey. 'The field of sociological study: Theories, meta-theories and the status of their use in the case of studies in Nepal.' Pp. 83-114 in Biswo Kallyan Parajuli (ed.), *Sociology and Anthropology in Nepal: Proceedings of National Workshop on Past present and Future of Sociology/Anthropology in Nepal*. 2007. Pokhara: Tribhuvan University, Prithwi Narayan Campus.
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14. Wolfe, Howard K. and Prem R. Pant. *A Handbook for Social Science Research and Thesis Writing*. Kathmandu.
15. Pauline V. Young. 1982. *Scientific Social Surveys and Research*. New Delhi: Prentice-Hall. Pp. 101-47.
16. Davis, Martha, 1997. *Scientific Papers and Presentations*. (Ch. 3: 'Organizing and Writing a Rough draft', Pp. 18-29; Ch. 5: 'Research Proposal,' Pp. 44-56).
- 17 Sand-Jensen, Kaj, 2007. 'How to write consistently boring scientific literature, *Oikos*, 116: 723-727.
- 18 David Dooley. Pp. 59-73.
- 19 Morris Zelditch, Jr. 'Some methodological problems of field studies.' Pp. 246-58 in Dennis Forcese and Stephen Richer (eds.), *Stages of Social Research: Contemporary Perspectives*. Prentice-Hall: New Jersey.
- 20 Baker, Pp. 425-48.
- 21 Dooley, Pp. 16-38.
- 22 Nepal Health Research Council. 2001. *National Ethical Guidelines for health Research in Nepal*. Kathmandu: NHRC. PP. 1-13.
- 23 American Anthropological Association: Code of Ethics of the American Anthropological Association.  
<http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ethcode.htm>
- 24 Chhetri, Ram B. 2004. Research Ethics: Concepts and Issues in Relation to Researchers and their Subjects, in P. K. Jha et al. (eds.), *Research Methods and Practice*. Pp. 17-26. Kathmandu: Buddha Academic Publishers.
- 25 Krishna Bhattachan and James Fisher. 'Contemporary Sociology in Nepal.' Pp. 731-42 in Raj P. Mohan and Arthur Wilke (eds.), *International Handbook of Sociology*. 1994. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood.
- 26 Chaitanya Mishra. 2005. 'Sociology in Nepal: Underdevelopment amidst growth.' *Contributions to Nepalese Studies*, 32 (1): 93-128.
- 27 Tulsi Ram Pandey. 'Methods of Field Research: Encounter, Experiences and Strategies'. *Contribution to Nepalese Studies*. 35(1):83-108. 2008.

- 28 Dooley, David., 1997. Ethics: Protecting Human Subjects and Research Integrity. In **Social Research Methods** (Pp 19-37). Delhi: Prentice-Hall of India Private Limited.
- 29 Lipson, Juliene G.,1994. Ethical Issues in Ethnography. In Janice M. Morse (ed.) **Critical Issues in Qualitative Research Methods** (Pp 333-355). London: SAGE Publication.
- 30 Goode, William J and Paul K. Hatt. 1981 **Methods in Social Research**. McGraw International Book Co. (pp 1-6).

#### Unit II. Metatheory and Research

- 1 Blalock, Hubert M., 1980. **Sociological Theory and Research: A Critical Appraisal**, New York, Collier Macmillan Publishing Co., pp. 141-167
- 2 Creswell, John. 1998. **Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing among Five Traditions**. New Delhi: Sage Publication. (Five traditions of qualitative inquiry. pp: 47-72.)
- 3 Abraham, M. Francis 1992. **Modern Sociological Theory**. Delhi: Oxford University Press. (Chapter 2, Theory and Sociological Inquiry. Pp 20-38).
- 4 Ritzer, George 2001. **Exploration in Social Theory: From Metatheorizing to Rationalization**. London: SAGE Publication. (Metatheorizing in Sociology Pp 13-33)
- 5 Cuff, E.C. , W. W. Sharrock and D.W. Francis 1990. **Perspectives in Sociology**. London: UNWIN HYMAN. (Chapter 7, Sociological Perspectives and Research Strategies; Pp 194-226.)
- 6 Colomy, Paul. 2005. Three Sociological Perspectives. In Ron Matson (ed.), **The Spirit of Sociology: A Reader**. Delhi: Pearson Education. First Indian reprint. ( Reading 4, Pp 32-42)
- 7 Therese L. Baker. 1999. **Doing Social Research** (Third Edition), New York: McGraw-Hill. (Chapter 2, Science and Theory in Social Research. Pp 45-72).
- 8 Steward, Julian (1955). The Concept and Method of Cultural Ecology. In Bohannan and Glazer (ed) **High Points in Anthropology**, Pp 322-332. Alfred A. Knopf
- 9 Ghosh, B.N. 1996. **Scientific Method and Social Research**. Delhi: Sterling Publishers. (Deduction and Induction Pp 57-63; Uniformities, Generalization and Laws Pp 150-156).
- 10 Michael Quinn Patton 2002. **Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methods**. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publication. (Chapter 8, Interpreting Findings Pp 477-506)
- 11 Dooley, David., 1997. **Social Research Methods**. Delhi: Prentice-Hall of India Private Limited. (Chapter 14, Interpreting Research. Pp. 275-293).

#### Unit III. Research Designs

1. Goode, W.J. and P.K. Hatt, 1952. **Methods in Social Research**. New Delhi: McGraw-Hill. (Ch. 8 on Research Design, Pp. 92-102).
2. Kerlinger, Fred N., **Foundation of Behavioural Research**, New York; Prinehart and Winston, 1973, (pp. 300 – 409).

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4. Kumar, Ranjit 1996. **Research Methodology**. London: SAGE Publications, (Pp 81-113).
5. Neuman, W. Lawrence. 1997. The meaning of methodology, in **Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches**. (Chapter 6 on Qualitative Research Designs, Pp. 106-129); (Chapter 13 on Quantitative Research Designs, Pp. 327-342).

#### **Unit IV. Measurements and Relationships**

1. Baker, Therese L., **Doing Social Research**, New Delhi: McGraw Hill. 1998 ( Pp. 101 -132; 383 - 392 ).
2. Kerlinger, Fred N., **Foundation of Behavioral Research**, New York: Prinehart and Winston, 1973. (pp 28-46, 300- 313, 426-476).
3. Mueller, John H. and Karl F. Schuessler. 1969. **Statistical Reasoning in Sociology**. New Delhi: Oxford and IBH. (Chapters 1 and 2, Pp. 3-30)
4. Pelto, Petti J. and Gretel H. Pelto, **Anthropological Research: The Structure of Inquiry**, London: Harper and Row Publishers, 1978 (Ch. 8 on Measurement, scales, and statistics, Pp. 141-176).
5. Goode, W.J. and Paul K. Hatt, 1952. **Methods in Social Research**. New Delhi: McGraw-Hill. (Pp. 353-358).
6. Rosenberg, Morris 1968. **The Logic of Survey Analysis**. New York: Basic Books Inc. Publishers (Chapter 1on The Meaning of Relationships pp 3-22)

#### **Unit V. Qualitative Data Generation Techniques**

1. Bernard, H. Russle. 1994. **Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches**. New Delhi: Altamira/Sage Publications. (Ch. 5, Choosing Research Problems, Sites, and Methods, Pp. 102-117); (Ch. 7, on Participant Observation, Pp. 136-164); (Ch. 15, Pp. 336-339 for: Archival Research).
2. Berreman, Gerald D., 2005. Ethnography: Method and Product. In Vinaya Kumar Srivastava (ed.) **Methodology and Fieldwork** (Pp 157-190). Delhi: Oxford, India.
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4. Miller, Jody and Barry Glassner, 1997. The 'Inside' and the 'Outside': Finding Realities in Interviews, in David Silverman (ed.), **Qualitative Research: Theory, Methods and Practice**. New Delhi: Sage Publications. Pp. 99-112.
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- Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 5: Tools of Research—1, Pp. 67-102).
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  8. Srinivas, M.N., 2005. The Insider Versus Outsider in the Study of Cultures. In Vinaya Kumar Srivastava (ed.) **Methodology and Fieldwork** (Pp 413-420). Delhi: Oxford, India.
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  13. Michael Schonhuth and Ulve Kievalitz 1993 Participatory Learning Approaches: Rapid Rural Appraisal, Participatory Appraisal: An Introductory Guide. Germany: Universum Verlagsanshalt Wiesbaden pp. 1-37

#### Unit VI. Qualitative Data Analysis

1. Creswell, John.1998. Data Analysis and Representation, In **Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing among Five Traditions**, pp: 139-165. New Delhi: Sage Publication
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3. Gillen, Julia and Alan Petersen. Discourse Analysis, in Bridget Somekh and Cathy Lewin (eds.), **Research Methods in the Social Sciences**. (Pp. 146-153), New Delhi: Vistaar Publications.
4. Guba, Egon G. and Yvonna S. Lincoln, 1998. Competing Paradigms in Qualitative Research, In N.K. Denzin and Y.S. Lincoln (eds.), **The Landscape of Qualitative Research: Theories and Issues**. Pp. 195-220. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
5. Lecompte Margaret D and Schensul Jean J 1999. **Analyzing and interpreting ethnographic data. Ethnographer's tool kit 5**. New Delhi: Altamira Press.
6. May, Tim, 1993. Social Research: Issues, Methods and Process. (Ch 8 on Documentary Research, Pp. 133-151). Buckingham: Open University Press.

7. Richie, Jane, Liz Spencer and William O'Connor, 2003. Carrying out Qualitative Analysis, In J. Richie and J. Lewis (eds.), **Qualitative Research Practice: Guide fro Social Science Students and Researchers**. Pp. 219-262. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

#### **Unit VII. Quantitative Data Generation Techniques**

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8. Schmid, Calvin F. 1977. Basic Statistical Concepts and Techniques, in P.V. Young's **Scientific Social Surveys and Research**. New Delhi: Prentice Hall. (Chapter 11. Pp. 325-334).
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#### **Unit VIII. Quantitative Data Analysis**

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- Approaches.** (Chapter 12 on Analysing Quantitative Data, Pp. 294 - 326). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
7. Rosenberg, Morris 1968. **The Logic of Survey Analysis.** New York: Basic Books Inc. Publishers (Pp 251 - 258)
  8. Schmid, Calvin F. 1977. Basic Statistical Concepts and Techniques, in P.V. Young's **Scientific Social Surveys and Research.** New Delhi: Prentice Hall. (Pp. 274 – 325; 387-431).
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**Unit IX. QualQuan Approach**

- 1 Ravi Kanbur (ed.), **Q-Squared--Qualitative and quantitative Poverty Appraisal: Complementarities, Tensions an the Way Forward. Q-Squared Working Paper No. 1.** October 2005. Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto. Pp 1-50,
- 2 P. V. Young.1982 **Scientific Social Surveys and Research.** New Delhi: Prentice Hall of India Private Limited. pp.266-73
- 3 Therese L. Baker. 1994. **Doing Social Research,** New York: McGraw-Hill. Pp. 343-44
- 4 Gabriel Campbell, Ramesh Shrestha and Linda Stone 1979. The use and Misuse of Social Science Research in Nepal. Kirtipur: Center for Nepal and Asian Studies, Tribhuvan University.