



Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University

PhD/MPhil Course Work Syllabus

Paper 1: Research Methodology I

Unit 1: Concept of Research and Research Methods

Philosophy behind Research Methodology, Meaning and Importance of Research, Types of Research - Descriptive Vs Analytical, Applied Vs Fundamental, Quantitative Vs Qualitative, Conceptual Vs Empirical, Selection and Formulation of Research Problem, Research Design, Research Methods – (i) Traditional Methods (Historical, Institutional, Legal, Philosophical, Comparative, Ethical Methods), (ii) Modern Methods (Survey of Literature, Sampling Method, Questionnaire, Schedule, Interview Method, Focus Group Discussion, Observation Method, Case Study Method, Content Analysis, Delphi Method, Experimental Method, Brainstorming Techniques).

Unit 2: Research Formulation and Hypothesis

Defining and formulating the Research Problem, steps in Research Design, Selecting the Problem, Necessity of Defining the Problem, Importance of Literature Review in Defining a Problem, Hypothesis Testing- Logic and Importance, Qualities of a Good Hypothesis, Null Hypothesis and Alternative Hypothesis.

Unit 3: Research Design and Methods

Research Design- Basic Principles, Need of Research Design, features of a Good Design, Important Concepts relating to Research Design, Exploratory Research Design – Concept, Types and Uses, Descriptive Research Design – Concept, Types and Uses, Experimental Design, Determining Experimental and Sample Designs.

Unit 4: Data Collection and Data Analysis

Types of Data (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary), Methods of Data Collection, Tabulation of Data, Data Analysis (Univariate analysis, Bivariate Analysis, Cross Tabulations and Chi-Square Test), Data Representation, Interpretation of Results, Testing of Hypothesis – Logical and Statistical Techniques.

Unit 5: Sampling

Concepts of Statistical Population and Sample, Sampling Frame, Sampling Error, Sample Size, Characteristics of a Good Sample, Probability Sample – Simple Random Sample, Systematic Sample, Stratified Random Sample, Multi-Stage Sampling, Determining Size of the Sample, Practical Considerations in determining Sample Size.

Unit 6: Computer Application

MS-Word, MS – Excel, MS- Power point, SPSS

Paper 2: Research Methodology II

Part 1: Qualitative Research

Unit 1: Qualitative Research

Qualitative Research: Why and How to do it, Qualitative and Quantitative Research,

The Qualitative Research Process, Making use of Literature in Qualitative Research, Epistemological Background – Construction and Understanding of Texts, Quality Criteria in Qualitative Research, Writing Qualitative Research.

Unit 2: Paper/Report Writing

Layout of a Research Paper, Organization of the Research Report- Preliminaries, Contents of the Report, Bibliography, Appendices, Style Manuals, Criteria for the Evaluation of the Research Report

Unit 3: Review of Literature

Article Review, Book Review

Part 2: Research and Publication Ethics

Unit 4: Philosophy and Ethics (Theory)

Introduction to Philosophy: Definition, nature and scope, concept, branches; Ethics: Definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgments and reactions.

Unit 5: Scientific Conduct (Theory)

Ethics with respect to science and research, intellectual honesty and research integrity; Scientific misconduct: Falsification, fabrication and plagiarism(FFP); Redundant publication: Duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing; Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data.

Unit 6: Publication Ethics (Theory)

Publication Ethics: Definition, introduction and importance; Best practices/ standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME etc.; Conflicts of interest; Publication misconduct: Definition, concept, problem that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa and types; Violation of publication ethics, authorship and cotributorship; Identification of publication misconduct,complaints and appeals; Predatory publishers and journals.

Unit 7: Open Access Publishing (Practice)

Open access publications and initiatives; SHERPA/RoMEO online resources to check publisher copyright and self- archiving policies; Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU; Journal finder/journal suggestion tool viz. JANE, Elsevier journal finder, Springer journal suggester, etc.

Unit 8: Publication Misconduct (Practice)

Subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship, conflicts of interest, complaints appeals; Use of Plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund and open source software tools.

Unit 9: Databases and Research Metrics (Practice)

Databases: Indexing databases, Citation databases: Web of science, Scopus etc.; Research Metrics: Impact factor of a Journal as per Journal Citation report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, Cite score Metrics: h-index, g index, i 10 index, altmetrics.

Paper 3: Multidisciplinary/Contemporary Issues

Unit 1:

Challenges and Prospects of Higher Education, Human Resource Development – Concept and Measures, Economics of Education, Financing in Education, Theories of Human Capital Development, Employment Issues and Policies, Open and Distance Learning (ODL), Open Educational Resources (OER), New Media as a Tool for Social Change, Technology in Mass Media.

Unit 2:

Concepts of Growth and Development, Inclusive Growth in India, Human Development and Millennium Development Goals, Environmental Issues

Unit 3:

Making of the Indian Constitution, Philosophy of the Constitution of India, Our Constitutional Obligation, The System of Governance, Fundamental Rights, Concept of Human Rights, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Humanitarian Law, Gandhian Philosophy, Contemporary International Relations

Unit 4:

Literature, Society and Culture, History of Books, History of Reading, Philosophy of Language, Applied/Practical Ethics, Climate Change- Causes and Implications, Disaster Management Approaches

Unit 5:

Gender and Health, Concept of Empowerment, Economics of Health Care, Health Care Services in India, Social Inequality and Health, Hospital as a Social Organization, Alternative Medicine

Unit 6:

Issues of North East India , Assam through Ages, Tea Industry of Assam-Issues in Development, Border Trade through North East-Look East Vs Act East Policy, Informal Economy of the North East, Women in Socio-Economic Development of North East India, Women in conflict situation in North East India