

Savitribai Phule Pune University

(Formerly University of Pune)

Syllabus for M.Phil. /Ph.D. (PET) Entrance Exam: Sociology

Research Methodology

Unit 1: Foundations of Research

Meaning of Research, motivation for research, objectives of research

Characteristics of scientific method, empiricism, value neutrality, Repeatability verifiability

Approaches to research: positivistic and interpretive, qualitative and quantitative, inductive and deductive and mix-method approach, Feminist approach, Social Research – time and space context

Epistemological, ontological positions, Critical Research.

Unit 2: Basic terms and types of research

Theory, concept, construct, fact,

independent and dependent variables,

Methodology, method, tool and technique

Types of research- Exploratory, descriptive, analytical/explanatory, experimental, evaluation and impact assessment, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, trans-disciplinary,

Basic Research, Applied Research, Action research, participatory research

Unit 3: Research Design

Research design- concept and definition, need, advantages of planning a research, characteristics of good research design, Steps in research design; Identification, Selection and Formulation of problem, Literature Review, Primary and secondary data, sources of data- authenticity, credibility, reliability of sources and data

Unit 4: Hypothesis

Definition, characteristic of good hypothesis and sources of hypothesis

Types of hypothesis, Null hypothesis and Alternative Hypothesis

Hypothesis Testing–Logic & Importance hypothesis testing-

Unit 5: Sample and sampling designs

Concept of population, sample, sampling frame, sampling unit

Need and advantages of sample study, Characteristics of representative sample, sampling error, Concept of probability and non-probability sampling

Types of probability sampling- simple random sampling, systematic random sampling, proportionate and disproportionate stratified random sampling

Types of non-probability sampling- purposive, snowball

Unit 6: Methods of research

Sample Survey, Case-study, life-history, ethnography, historical, Interview

Unit 7: Tools of data collection

Questionnaire, Interview Schedule, Observation and types of observation, Focused Group Discussion, Scales and scaling techniques, Interview Guide, Field Diary

Unit 8: Statistics in Social Sciences

Types of measurement: Nominal, Ordinal and Scale

Basic statistical techniques: aggregation of data, totals, percentages, tabulation – univariate, cross tabulation- bivariate and multivariate

Data Presentation- Charts and Graphs: Bar charts, Histograms, Clustered bar charts, clustered histogram, pie chart, Pyramid

Measures of Central Tendency: Averages – Arithmetic mean, Geometric mean, harmonic mean, Median, Mode

Measures of Dispersion: Range, Standard Deviation, Variance, Coefficient of Variation

Association, Correlation and Regression, Correlation coefficients Pearson's r and Spearman's rho, Linear regression

Statistical tests: underlying assumptions for statistical tests, t-test, chi-square test, F-test, Analysis of Variance, Non-parametric tests

Statistical packages: SPSS, SAS, Statistica, R, PSPP

Qualitative Data Analysis N-Vivo and other softwares

Unit 9: Research Ethics

Research Ethics, History of research ethics.

Introduction to ethical principles - What is morality?, What is ethics?, What is ethical theory?, Anonymity, Confidentiality, Informed consent, Rights of participants, Harm to respondents and Researchers, Principles of biomedical and social science ethics, Ethical Guideline in Social Research

Unit 10: Publication of Research and Plagiarism

Sources of Scholarly discourse, books, journals, monographs, proceedings, encyclopedias etc.

Databases online and print, Indexing databases, bibliographic databases

Why Publish Research? When and where to publish?

Ranking of journals, citation indices, avoiding predatory journals, Impact factor and h-index

Plagiarism, its meaning and how to avoid it, Self-plagiarism

Anti-plagiarism measures – guidelines and software

Unit 11: Referencing and Citations

Research referencing: Why – due credit to researchers, track back original research, its data, and sources etc., to avoid plagiarism

Referencing and Citations: What is Citation? Citation styles, its basic components (Authors or editors, Book, journals etc, year and month of publication, page numbers, volume and issue etc)

Differences in Citations of: Journal Articles, Authored books, Edited books, conference proceedings, posters, other media such as newspapers and magazines, electronic media such as websites and blogs, social media, photographs, videos and audio recordings, Legal proceedings, Reports of various agencies etc.

Citation and References management: traditional methods – 3 X 5 cards for references and notes, Computer based - reference management softwares: Paid – Endnote, Free – Mendeley, Zotero and others

Subject Concerned Syllabus

Sociology

Module 1: Concepts

1. Basic concepts: Institutions, Culture, Norms and Values, Social Structure
2. Social Change and social stratification
3. Concepts related to development and globalization, dimensions of globalization, changing concept of work

Module 2: Theory

2. (A)

1. Classical Thinkers
2. Conflict Perspective
3. Functionalism
4. Structuralism
5. Symbolic interactionism and Phenomenology

2. (B)

1. Neo Marxism and Critical Theory
2. Post –structuralism
3. Debate between structure - agency (Giddens, Bourdieu and Beck)

Module 3: Conceptualising Indian Society

1. Theoretical Perspectives –
 - Indological/Textual Perspective: G. S. Ghurye
 - Structural – Functional Perspective: M. N. Srinivas
 - Marxian Perspective: A. R. Desai
 - Feminist Perspective: Leela Dube
 - Non-brahmanical Perspective: B.R.Ambedkar
2. Debates- tradition-Modernity, Secularism

Module 4: Issues related to development and globalization:

- Poverty – rural and urban
- Ecological degradation, displacement
- Structures and theories of globalisation
- Education and Health
- Debates: Tradition & modernity in India, Secularism

Module 5: Methods

1. Nature of Social Research – Definition, hypothesis, theory and concept , Research design
2. Positivist Research, Critical Research, Deconstruction, Discourse analysis
3. Quantitative and Qualitative methodology, Epistemological, ontological positions
4. Ethical considerations in social research
5. Methods:
 - Quantitative: Survey, Questionnaire, Structured interview.
 - Qualitative: Case Study, unstructured interview, ethnography.