
Book Review

- Title** : **A Textbook of Research Methodology in Social Sciences**
(Sixth Edition, 2007, ISBN: 81-8054-555-5, Price: Rs.160)
- Author** : Professor P.C.Tripathi (formerly University Professor and Head of the
Deptt. of Business Administration, Sukhadia University, Udaipur.
- Publisher** : Sultan Chand & Sons, New Delhi

This book is a much focused mathematical treatment for the advance postgraduate and research levels. Chapter 1 introduces its readers to the concepts of pure and applied research and the relationship between experimental and non-experimental research. It gives a proper background and framework to understand the research design. In Chapter 3, hypotheses are very well defined, though they are not supported by adequate examples which can explain the quantitative and qualitative formation of hypotheses. Each chapter has been structured uniformly, which makes the understanding simpler by providing a logical sequence of the thought process.

In Chapters 4 to 6, the author has provided a quick-head solution for experimental and non-experimental methods of data collection which are based on complete experimental designs and incomplete experimental design. The author has also presented basic information in respect of data collection which deserves appreciation. Chapter 7 explores some of the best ways to know the various sampling techniques and their merits and demerits. Use of sampling in research field is properly defined. It is well focused on how to use random number tables.

Chapter 9 deals with the analysis of the collected raw data using statistical methods. Though the statistical techniques have been used, no illustrative interpretations could be seen. A discussion on the applications of computer software to make research decisions could have been considered to make the coverage more useful and contemporary. Author's discussion regarding factor analysis and cluster analysis is also not clearly defined in a conceptual way. It is not backed by sufficient examples.

In Chapters 12 to 13, hypothesis testing based on one sample parametric tests, two sample parametric tests are beautifully explained with suitable examples. The pedagogy used is simple, lucid and easy-to-understand. In Chapter 15, the non-parametric tests based on one sample tests, two sample tests and K-sample tests ($K \geq 3$) have been systematically discussed. Advanced research projects are totally based on these types of tests. Real world examples can be seen here.

A unique feature of this book is the effort to correlate and signify the vitality of research in multifarious disciplines including Management, Economics and Sociology and other humanities and social sciences. Overall, while the book provides useful tools and methods for researchers and practitioners, on a positive note, the author has made full use of his rich consulting experience to make it a multidisciplinary guide for deriving actionable solutions through research. The book has the potential to be useful as a text for research-oriented readers, business managers and policy makers.

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