

SW 426: Research Methods in Social Work
(Theoretical + Practical)

Full Marks: 100 (70 +30)

Lecture Hours: 150 (100 +50)

Course Description:

This paper is designed to introduce social work research and to familiarize students with the process and practice of research. It enables them to comprehend social work research design; concept, theory, methods, interpretation, and reporting of research findings for social work intervention. In addition, this paper also includes the relevance of *Prachya Darshana* (Eastern philosophy) mode of inquiry as well as applied aspects of social work research.

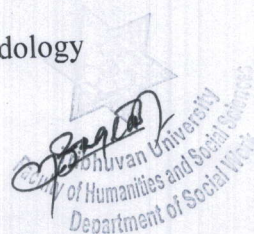
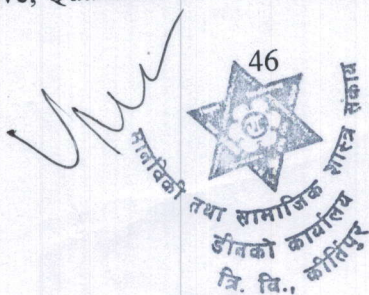
Course Objectives:

- To help students understand the concept and importance of research in social work practice.
- To equip students with fundamental skills necessary for data collection and report writing.
- To make students able to find out the areas of their interest for further exploration as well as dissemination and publication in social work.

Unit I: Social Work Research and Research Methodology

20 LH

- **Research in Social Work**
 - Concept and Types
 - Goal and Importance
 - The Notion of Evidence Based Practice
 - Research as secondary methods in Social Work
- **Philosophy, Theory, and Methodology**
 - **Ontology;**
 - Western trend (Positivism/Empiricism and Interpretivism/Constructivism);
 - Eastern trend (*Vedanta, Mimamsa and Samkhya*)
 - **Epistemology** – Western trend (Objectivist/Rationalist and Constructionist/Interactionist)
- **Methodology:** Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methodology



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Unit II: Review of Literatures

- Literatures and Preparing bibliography
- Literature Review (Nature, Sources and Importance)
- Types of Reviews (Narrative and Systematic)
- Gap Analysis and Statement of the Research Problems
- Generating Research Questions and Objectives
- Development of Conceptual and Theoretical Framework
- Citation, Reference and Bibliography, and Plagiarism

25 LH

Unit III: Research Design and Data Collection

- Research Design – meaning and components
- Types of Research Designs
 - Descriptive, Exploratory and Explanatory Research design
 - Experimental, Non-Experimental, Cross-Sectional, Longitudinal, Case Study, Comparative Study Design
 - Historical, Narrative, Ethnographies Research Designs
 - Sequential, Concurrent and Transformative Research Designs
- Quantitative Research Methods in Social Work Research
 - Why we need Sampling?
 - Census and Survey
 - Universe and Sampling
 - Sample size and its process
 - Sampling Methods:
- Qualitative Research Methods in Social Work Research
 - Concept of Social Field and Roles of the Researcher (Observer)
 - Relations of Participants: Emic and Etic Perspectives
 - Qualitative Sampling and Selection of Informants
 - In-depth Interviewing, Key Informant Interview (KII)
 - Life History, Biography and Genogram
 - Focus Groups Discussion
 - Note Taking and Recording Observations



Unit V: General Introduction of Data Analysis and Interpretation

20 LH

- **Processing and analysis of quantitative data**

- Elements and types of data analysis (univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis)
- Ratio, Percentage and Proportion
- Levels of Measurement: Nominal, Ordinal, Interval and Ratio Measures
- Statistics in research, Measures of central tendency (Mean, Median, Mode)
- Measures of dispersion (range, quartile deviation, average deviation) and standard deviation
- Cross-tabulation: frequency distribution and Chi-square test
- Application of Correlation: Spearman's Rank Order Correlation, Karl Pearson's Correlation Coefficient

- **Qualitative data analysis and presentation**

- Editing, coding, classification, description and interpretation of qualitative data
- Prachya Darshana Inference Analysis: Pratigyan (the Proposition/Promise), Hetu (the Ground/Purpose), Uдахarana (the Illustration), Upanaya (the application) , Nigamana (the Conclusion) and Hatvabhasa (the syllogism/ Fallacy)
- Interpretation

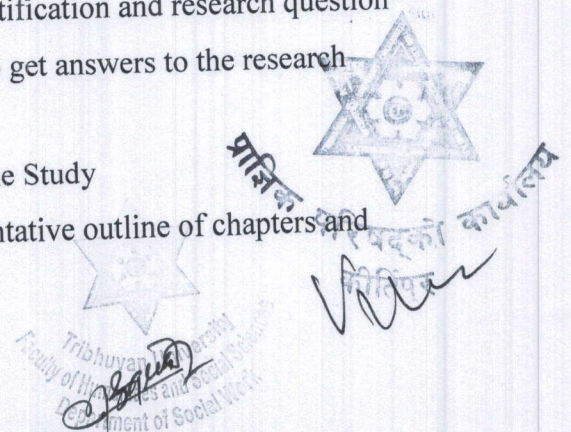
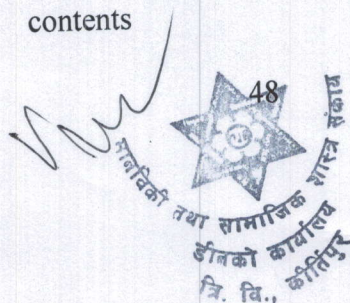
Unit VI: Writing Research

10 LH

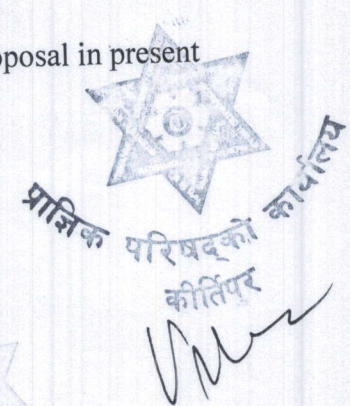
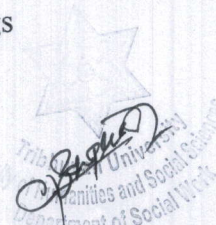
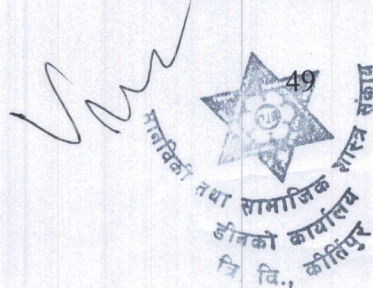
Research Proposal – definition, purpose and importance

- **General Components**

- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Introduction
 - Background – introduction to the topics and context of research
 - Statement of the Problem – identification and research question
 - Objectives – activities needed to get answers to the research questions
 - Rationale and Significance of the Study
 - Organization of the Report – tentative outline of chapters and contents



- Review of Literature
 - definition, history and context of concepts and variables
 - Theoretical and empirical reviews
 - Past studies and global and Nepali context
 - Gap analysis and Conceptual framework
- Research Methodology
 - Study Area and Rationale for selection
 - Research Design
 - Sample design
 - Data collection tools and Techniques
 - Techniques of Data Analysis and Interpretation
 - Limitation of the Study
- Appendices – data collection tools, maps etc.
- List of References and Bibliography
- Research Format
 - General Components
 - Preliminary Pages
 - Title page
 - Acknowledgements
 - Table of Contents
 - List of Tables and Figures
 - Abstract
 - Main body text
 - Introduction;
 - Background and preliminary parts of the proposal in present perfect tense
 - Reviews and Conceptual Frameworks
 - Methodology and Methods
 - Data Presentation and Analysis
 - Results and Major Findings



- Interpretation of Findings
- Discussion and Conclusion
- Post Script Pages
 - List of References
 - Appendices

Unit VI: The Ethical, Political and Cultural Context of Social Work

5 LH

- Ethics and Politics of Social Work Research
 - Ethical Principles
 - Politics in Research
 - Ethics and the Internet
- Developing Cultural Competence

Practical Activities

The teacher shall teach, guide, instruct and evaluate each student (individual work) for writing proposal and report on the relevant topic on appropriate format as per the general process of report basis of following format. For final evaluation purpose 30 marks has been allocated for both classroom and field activities based on presentation and viva-voce by the external assigned from the university. The specific activities for the practicum shall generally involve the following tasks;

- each student shall explore their interest of social work settings and related literature to develop a title, problem statement and conceptual framework,
- generally social work is both science and arts and are more focused on the emotional aspects and phenomenal of the participants,
- conceptual framework should be guided by the interaction knowledge in western theoretical practices as well as *Prachya Darshana*,
- appropriate sample design based on the clarification of universe and sampling to be developed,
- appropriate tool for both quantitative and qualitative studies to be developed,
- data collection process guided by ethical process and principles
- Finally, reporting to be made as per the given format so as to generate conclusion and recommendation for appropriate intervention for social work practice.

