B. Com (Hons.) (Accounting and Taxation)

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC COURSE (DSC)

SEMESTER VIII

(BCB44802T): RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Max. Marks: 100
External: 70
Internal: 30
Pass: 40%
Credits: 4

Objective:
The objective of this course is to develop a research orientation among the students and to acquaint them with fundamentals of research methods. Specifically, the course aims at introducing them to the basic concepts used in research and ethics in research.

CO 1	To understand and comprehend the basics in research methodology and applying them in research/ project work
CO 2	To help students to select an appropriate research design and enable them to collect the data, edit it properly and analyse it accordingly.
CO 3	To develop skills in qualitative and quantitative data analysis and presentation.
CO 4	Students will be able to understand ethical issues in research and publication.

SECTION-A

Block 1: Introduction to research

Introduction to Research Methodology: Characteristics, Objectives and Types, Research Design Literature review and Scaling Techniques Literature review, Research problems, Measurement and Scaling Techniques & Sampling Concept of statistical population, 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 sampling and sample size.

Block 2: Data Collection

Data collection methods: Primary Data Collection methods, Observation Method, Interview Method, Collection of Data through Questionnaires, Collection of Data through Schedules, Difference between Questionnaires and Schedules, Other methods of primary data collection and secondary Data Collection methods

SECTION B

Block 3: Hypotheses Testing:

Meaning of Hypothesis, Characteristics of Hypothesis, Basic Concepts: Null Hypothesis and Alternative Hypothesis, One-tailed and Two-tailed, Type-I and Type-II errors, Level of Significance. Power of a test. Critical Region and Acceptance Region, Hypothesis Testing Procedures (Steps), Introduction to parametric and non-parametric tests.

Block 4: Publication Ethics and Publication Misconduct

Ethics – Definition, Moral Philosophy, Nature of Moral Judgements and Reaction, Ethics with respect to Science and Research. Intellectual Honesty and Research Integrity.
Publication Ethics- Definition, Introduction and Importance. Best Practices/Standard Settings initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME etc. Conflict of Interest Software to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU

Scientific Misconduct: Falsification, Fabrication and Plagiarism. Redundant Publications: Duplicate and Overlapping Publication, Salami Slicing. Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data.

Suggested Readings

1. Kumar, Ranjit (2014). *Research methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
2. Kothari, C.R. (2011). *Research methodology: methods and techniques*. (3rd ed.). New Delhi: New Age International.
3. Mukherjee, Partha Nath (2000). *Methodology in social research*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
4. Sharma, Manoj (2004). *Research methodology*. New Delhi: Anmol Publications.
5. Spector, Paul E. (1990). *Research designs*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PAPER SETTER/EXAMINER:

1. The syllabus prescribed should be strictly adhered to.
2. The question paper will consist of three sections: A, B, and C. Sections A and B will have four questions from the respective sections of the syllabus and will carry 10 marks each. The candidates will attempt two questions from each section.
3. Section C will have fifteen short answer questions covering the entire syllabus. Each question will carry 3 marks. Candidates will attempt any ten questions from this section.
4. The examiner shall give a clear instruction to the candidates to attempt questions only at one place and only once. Second or subsequent attempts, unless the earlier ones have been crossed out, shall not be evaluated.
5. The duration of each paper will be three hours.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES:

Candidates are required to attempt any two questions each from the sections A and B of the question paper and any ten short questions from Section C. They have to attempt questions only at one place and only once. Second or subsequent attempts, unless the earlier ones have been crossed out, shall not be evaluated.