PAPER I

FOUNDATION OF EMPIRICAL RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES-I

MAX MARKS: 100

EXTERNAL: 70

INTERNAL: 30

PASS: 40%

CREDITS: 6

Objectives:

This module aims to provide learners with a foundational understanding of the nature and logic of empirical research in the social sciences. It seeks to develop conceptual clarity regarding the scientific method, research problem formulation, hypothesis construction and research design. The module also introduces learners to major methodological approaches and sensitizes them to the importance of literature review and ethical principles in conducting responsible and systematic social research.

Course Outcomes:

After completion of this module, learners will be able to:

CO 1: Understand the nature, scope and significance of social research and the scientific method.

CO 2: Develop the ability to identify and formulate research problems, questions and objectives.

CO 3: Differentiate between various types of research and research approaches.

CO 4: Understand the role of hypotheses and variables in research and their operationalization.

Section A

Unit 1: Social Research: Meaning, characteristics, objectives and scope

Unit 2: Scientific Method in Social Research: Objectivity and subjectivity; Steps of conducting research

Unit 3: Types of Research: Basic, applied and action research; descriptive and analytical, empirical, experimental and exploratory

Unit 4: Inductive & Deductive approach

Section B

Unit 5: Research Problem: Identification, Formulation, Delimiting and Defining

Unit 6: Research Questions and Objectives: Types and formulation

Unit 7: Hypothesis: Meaning, types and formulation: Qualities of a good hypothesis

Unit 8: Variables in Research: Independent and dependent

Suggested Readings:

1. Kothari, C.R. (2004). Research methodology: Methods and techniques. New age international (P)Limited, publishers.

2. Kumar, R. (2011). Research methodology: a step-by-step guide for beginners. Sage Publications

3. Young, P.V. 1966. Scientific Social Surveys and Research. New Delhi: Prentice Hall India.