

## BOOK REVIEW

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***Theoretical and Conceptual Perspectives in Social Research Methods: A Guide to Students and Researchers.*** By Dr. Birpal Singh Thenua. Agra, Social Development Federation, 2024. 444p. ISBN: 978-81-968705-2-2. Price: \$39.50.

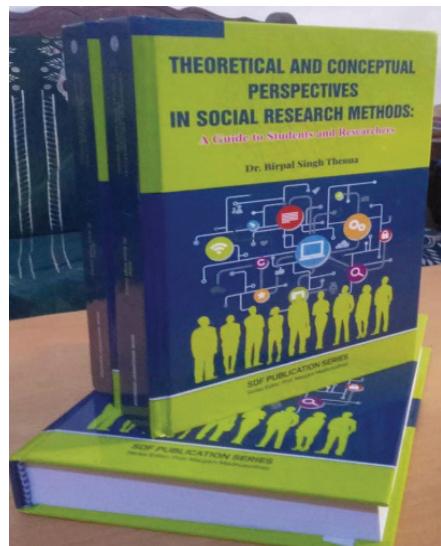
The book *Theoretical and Conceptual Perspectives in Social Research Methods: A Guide for Students and Researchers* offer a comprehensive exploration of research methodologies and conceptual frameworks within the social sciences. While some chapters present forward-looking ideas, others highlight well-established theoretical and conceptual approaches currently employed in the field. Emphasizing the critical role of research methods in shaping and advancing social science inquiry and information organization, the book addresses both foundational principles and contemporary practices.

Authored by **Dr. Birpal Singh Thenua** of Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University), Agra, and published by the **Social Development Federation, Agra** under the SDF Publication Series, the book reflects a deep academic commitment. The series is edited by **Dr. Margam Madhusudhan**, Professor, University of Delhi, and represents a timely and thoughtful contribution to the evolving needs of students and researchers in social science disciplines.

This book is designed to serve as a comprehensive guide to social research methodology, intended primarily for postgraduate students in the social sciences. Whether you are embarking on your first research project or seeking to deepen your understanding of research

methodologies, this book aims to provide a structured approach to navigating the complexities of social research. For new readers to research methodology or seeking a thorough foundation, I recommend starting with Chapter first and progressing sequentially.

Each chapter builds upon the previous one, introducing concepts progressively and laying



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a solid groundwork for more advanced topics. Alternatively, if you are familiar with certain aspects of research methodology or have specific interests, feel free to jump directly to the chapters or sections that address your needs.

This book is designed to meet the needs of the readers by providing a clear, structured approach to research methodology in social sciences. It covers the fundamental principles, methods, tools, and techniques essential for conducting robust research, while also offering practical examples and the few case studies specific to the social sciences. My aim is to demystify the research process and equip students with the tools and confidence needed to conduct their own research work effectively.

This book is a comprehensive resource for understanding the intricacies of social research methodologies. It explores foundational concepts, diverse research types and methods, and systematic approaches to designing and conducting research studies and addressing various concepts, including variables, ethical considerations, qualitative and quantitative techniques, data collection instruments, formulation of hypotheses, and statistical analysis. This book provides readers with essential theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Additionally, it offers detailed guidance on preparing research reports, dissertations, theses, and project works, making it an indispensable companion for students and researchers.

This book structured in 22 chapters with specific features related to social research methods with the conceptual guidelines and examples. The Chapter first of this book, presents a systematic introduction to social research as a whole. The second chapter has a systematic explanation of types of social research. The basic research, experimental research, field research, and laboratory research are explained in detailed with their merits and drawbacks. Chapter third focuses on survey research with systematic history of survey in India. Chapter four outlines the necessity of following systematic steps in social research, with reference to the approaches of Goode and Hatt, and P.V. Young. Chapter fifth had a clear description of variables, which are fundamental elements in designing and analysing research studies and chapter sixth addresses the ethical considerations, key principles, and the importance of ethics in conducting social.

research. Chapter seven explores research design which provides a blueprint for planning and executing research projects effectively and chapter eight explains the qualitative and quantitative research approaches in social research. Chapter nine focuses on the process of defining research problems, understanding theoretical frameworks, and addressing the challenges faced by researchers in this critical step. Chapter ten has a detailed description on hypotheses. This chapter also discusses the significance of hypotheses in guiding research inquiries. Chapter eleven distinguishes between primary and secondary data, their key features, sources, and the importance of studying both types in social research. Chapter twelve, thirteen, fourteen and fifteen explore observation, interview, questionnaire, and schedule as research tools. Chapter sixteen provides a historical background, definition, key characteristics, data

sources, and the methodology of conducting case studies. This chapter highlights the value of case studies in providing in-depth insights into specific phenomena. Chapter seventeen explains the need for sampling, its definition, key characteristics, several types, importance, and limitations. Sampling is crucial for ensuring that research findings are representative and generalizable. Chapter eighteen and nineteen discuss the importance of logical reasoning, inductive, deductive, and abductive methods in social research. There is a detailed explanation on quantitative aptitude, its key aspects, importance, drawbacks, and applications in social research, emphasizing the role of quantitative skills in analysing data. Chapter twenty and twenty-one cover statistical analysis, its key aspects, need, and methods such as editing, coding, classification, tabulation, inferential statistics, and descriptive analysis. There is an introduction of content analysis, its key features, theoretical foundations, methodological approaches, purpose, utility, advantages, and limitations in social research. Chapter twenty-two and twenty-three emphasize the need for writing research reports, provides tips, an outline for social science reports, and discusses various types of research reports and also explain the structure and format of synopses, dissertations, projects, and research papers, including examples and detailed guidelines for APA style reference

writing. The key analyses of the book cover.

- Foundations and types of social research
- Survey methods and historical context in India.
- Systematic steps in research (referencing Goode & Hatt, and P.V. Young)
- Variables, research ethics, and research design
- Qualitative and quantitative research approaches
- Problem definition, theoretical frameworks, and hypothesis formulation
- Primary and secondary data distinctions
- Core research tools: observation, interviews, questionnaires, and schedules.
- Case study methodology
- Sampling techniques, their importance, and limitations
- Logical reasoning methods (inductive, deductive, abductive)
- Quantitative aptitude and its applications
- Statistical methods: editing, coding, tabulation, descriptive and inferential analysis
- Content analysis: purpose, process, and limitations
- Research report writing, APA formatting, and structuring dissertations, theses, and synopses.

This book is an essential resource for those beginning their journey into research as well as seasoned academics looking to refine their methodological approach. It provides a clear, thoughtful, and systematic path to mastering the art and science of social research.

I highly recommend this book for postgraduate students, research scholars, faculty members, and professionals engaged in social sciences and library & information science.

