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A STUDY OF PROBLEMS FACED BY SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH STUDENTS DURING DATA ANALYSIS

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Introduction:

Social Science Research is the activity of gathering, analyzing and interpreting information for a variety of social, economic, educational and political purposes. A good social research needs critical understanding of a range of social methods and style. Social research process contains a series of closely related activities which is carried out by competent researcher. Research process requires immense patience and hard work. It is an art rather than a science. There are few steps in social research process such as selection of research problem, review of existing literature, framing the hypothesis, preparing the Research Design, sampling data collection, data analysis, hypothesis testing, generalization and interpretation of data, preparation of report of all the above mentioned process, data analysis is the prime concern of researcher for the present research paper.

Data analysis is a process used to inspect, clean, transform and remodel data with a view to reach to a certain conclusion for a give solution. Data is analyzed by using tools and techniques such as MS Excel and software packages like SPSS. It is of two kinds typically: qualitative or quantitative. The type of data follows the methods of analysis. If the data is numerical form and quantitative research methods are used then, one can use statistics to help to arrive at results and conclusions. The result obtained is but obvious numerical. Where else in qualitative research non numerical data like text or words or sentences are analyzed. But there are few cases where both forms of analysis are used hand in hand. Quantitative analysis can help to prove qualitative conclusions.

The most important benefits of data analysis include data analysis is primarily most helpful in breaking down a big problems, issues into small parts data analysis is like a filter when one is required to get on Inside Out of huge collected data set it also helps in feeling of the finding from other different sources of data. It helps in keeping away bias form has concerned arrived with the use of statistical tools.

An effective research methodology leads to better data collection and analysis of the data and finally leads the researchers to arrive at logical and valid conclusions in the research. In the present research paper researcher aims to find out the problems faced by social science research students in data analysis.

Objective of the study:

1) To study the problems faced by research students during data analysis.

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Research methodology:

This research is descriptive in nature. For this study researcher has used primary as well as secondary data. Primary data collected through informal interviews with few research students who have already completed data analysis. While secondary data has collected through books, research paper and websites.

Problem faced by the research students:

1) Problem regarding to coding and decoding of the data-

When data is going to the feed in Excel or in SPSS, at that time data must be code. Some questions are descriptive so researcher has to give code to them. Sometimes in case of multiple choice questions respondent chooses more than one option that time also researcher has to code those answers in proper manner. Here problem faced by researchers is that, they don't know how to code them and how to make combinations of answers. After data analysis part, at the time of interpretation researcher has to again decode them and interpret them in proper words.

2) Data feeding in SPSS-

SPSS stands for statistical package for Social Sciences. As compare to excel data feeding in SPSS is more difficult. For all the variables researcher has to give specific scale, range and other detail so it becomes difficult to the researchers.

3) Lack of knowledge of data-

Even after all data collection and data analysis student don't know that what kind of data they have. Data is either qualitative or quantitative or we can divide it in nominal scale, ordinal scale, interval scale and in ratio scale. According to data type researchers have to use proper statistical tools. So they will get appropriate results and their research arrives at meaningful and accurate conclusions.

4) Use of statistical packages-

Some basic statistical packages or softwares like Excel, SPSS, e-views etc. are helpful to the research students for data analysis. But reality is that social science researchers and don't know how to use them. With the help of these softwares in a single click or command researches get number of statistical operations and results. But the problem is that researchers are unable to use these statistical packages.

5) Use of statistical tools-

Numbers of researchers don't have idea about using appropriate statistical tools which are best for their research. Researchers just follow other researchers or we can say they imitate all the techniques which has used in that kind of research. But they don't use those tools which clearly explain their objectives of research.

6) Lack of knowledge of results-

In data analysis after applying statistical tools students get statistical results. But numbers of researchers don't have idea of those results. It means what those results shows or try to say. Some students have idea or knowledge about some basic statistical tools and results but they don't have knowledge of the advanced statistical tools and their results.

7) Problems related to tables and graphs-

Many research students don't have idea of effective presentation of tables and graphs. Students don't know how to adjust the table, how to merge cells, how to make cell alignment, and so on. While in graphs student don't know which graph is suitable for particular data and how to draw it, how to name the axis and have to add values or percentage in graph, how to add different backgrounds and etc. so these students are unable to represent their research more effectively.

8) Interpretation problem-

Number of the students are completed the process of data analysis successfully but they can't interpret the data in proper manner. You don't know how the results of data analysis are interpret, how the results must be explained that exactly shows the picture of reality.

9) Hypothesis testing-

Maximum students face this problem that is, at the end of the data analysis they have to use some statistical test for hypothesis testing. Hypothesis testing makes your research more accurate. But very few student can test hypothesis by own. But remaining all other takes professional help for testing the hypotheses and even after that testing they don't get any idea about results of hypothesis testing. They just know that, whether to accept or reject the null hypothesis.

Conclusion:

All above points shows that what kind of problem faced by researchers mostly in Social Sciences during data analysis. Even after

completion of M.Pill., Ph.D or any other research degree students are facing same problems regarding data analysis. Many Social Science researchers after their 10th class don't have any statistical or mathematical base and also they have very less knowledge about the using of computers so they face these problems.

Research students in their degree period before analysis part attend as many as workshop regarding the research methodology, data analysis, use statistical packages and coursework. At the same time concerned colleges and institutes givepracticals to the students which will help in data analysis. Also these colleges and institutes add one practical paper regarding data analysis in their coursework. While researchers must be more focus on technical, applied and practical research paper also. Lastly researchers have to change their negative attitude about data analysis.

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