Chapter 3

Research Methodology
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with methodology used in the study and has been discussed under the following headings:

1. Statement of the problem
2. Scope and limitation
3. Objectives of the study
4. Hypothesis
5. Methodology
6. Tools used for the study
7. Questionnaire Method
8. Sample Population
9. Variable taken
10. Pilot survey
11. Data collection procedure
12. Data analysis

1. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problem for this present study is entitled "Use and awareness of print and e-resources by students in Women's College, AMU, Aligarh: A Survey." The present study tries to investigate that how much students of the Women's College of AMU are aware about print and electronic resources. In this study the investigator tries to find out that up to what level the students are aware of and are using these resources.

2. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The scope of the study has been limited by the following constraints:

2.1 The study is limited to the students of Women's College i.e. those studying in course being offered such as, B.A, B.Sc. and B.Com.
2.2. The other limitation of the study is that AV materials (films, video-tapes, slides and posters) were not included, because they were not the focus of the study.

2.3. The sample questionnaire was distributed among 295 students but we could have only 281 responses. The remaining students did not return the questionnaires. In which 9 questionnaires was not filled properly.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Every work is incomplete if there is lack of an objective. The work done without objectives is always meaningless. So for appropriate and meaningful work an objective is necessary the objectives determined for this study are:

a. To find out the awareness among the students about the print and electronic resources.

b. To establish to what extent students use print and electronic resources.

c. To know which resources, between print and electronic, students preferred when looking for information to meet their needs.

d. To find out the reason why student prefer these resources.

e. To know what problems students encounter when consulting these resources.

4. HYPOTHESES

There is no doubt that hypotheses are important and indispensable tools of a scientific study. In lack of hypotheses no scientific study can be completed. Hypotheses are the working instrument of the theory, which can be tested and shown to be probably true and false. It is the hypothesis which makes the way for solution of the problem.
Most of the students are aware about the library resources which are important for their academic study.

Most of the students have not stopped using print resources.

Most of the students are aware about e-resources.

Most of the students face problem while using e-resource.

Most of the student’s preferred print resources if given a choice between print and electronic.

5. METHODOLOGY

Methodology has its own importance in scientific investigation because objectives in any research investigation cannot be obtained unless it is carried out in a very systematic and planned manner. Scientific investigation involves careful adoption of research design, use of standard tools and tests identifying adequate sample technique. Some procedure for collecting data and then after careful tabulation, the use of appropriate statistical techniques for analysis of the data is known as methodology.

There are several techniques for collecting data such as:

- Observation method
- Interview method
- Questionnaire method
- Schedule
- Diary method
- Other methods which include
  a) Using mechanical device through project techniques
  b) Depth interview
  c) Content analysis
6. TOOLS USED FOR THE STUDY

For the present study the investigator choose the questionnaire method because it is very important and convenient method of data collection. This technique is chosen because it is less time consuming than observation & interview method which are very lengthy procedures, investigator selected questionnaire method for the present study.

7. QUESTIONNAIRE METHOD

Questionnaire is a tool to collect the data from diverse large widely scattered groups. This method of data collection is quite popular, particularly in case of long queries. It is called the heart of survey operation. Goode and Halt state: questionnaire refers to a device for securing answers to questions by using a form which the respondent files himself. The important steps in this method consists of a careful translation of the objectives of survey in to a set of questions, may ask for the opinion of factual information. The questions is formed in such a way that the relation of one question to another can be readily apparent to the respondent, questions sequence must be clear and answers can be given by checking Yes or No or by selecting one of the possible answer provided in the questionnaire. This technique is somewhat difficult and time consuming but at same time provides most direct response and reliable data.

There are two types of questionnaires

a) Open ended questionnaire

In this type of questionnaire no answer is given against the questions. Respondent supplies the answer in his/her own words.
b) Close ended questionnaire

In this type of questionnaire answer is given against the question; the respondent has to select the alternative answer written against the question so the work of respondent is to tick on the right answer.

7.1 Interview Method

The interview is an oral questionnaire instead of writing the responses: the interviewee gives the needed information orally and face to face. Interviews are used to gather information regarding an individual experience and knowledge his or her opinions, beliefs, and feelings. This method is more direct. The investigator used personal interview generally in a face to face contact to the other person or respondents.

7.2 Observation Method

When observation is used in a qualitative research, it usually consists of detailed notation of behaviour. Observations are one way to collect primary data. Observation is purposeful, systematic, and selective way of watching and listening to an interaction or phenomenon as it takes place. Observation is the best approach to collect the required information.

8. SAMPLE POPULATION

In behavioural researchers, sample is a fraction of population. Mohsin (1984) contended that “Sample is a small part of the total existing events, objects or the information.” Thus sampling is a small portion of population selected for observation.

The present study is conducted on a sample of 272 students taken from Women’s College, AMU. Total number of 295 questionnaires was distributed among the students out of which 272 filled questionnaires were returned back.
9. VARIABLE TAKEN

In order to get meaningful conclusion the following variable are analyzed in detail:

Students of B.A., B.Sc. & B.Com. (I,II,III)

10. PILOT SURVEY

The investigator conducted a pilot survey by administering questionnaire among 20 students of Women’s College, Aligarh. The pilot survey helped substantially in modifying the questionnaires, which further helped in collection of data with more accuracy and completeness.

11. DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

For the present study the investigator visited Women’s College to collect the required data. Questionnaires were distributed to the students and filled questionnaires were collected on the spot.

12. DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected through questionnaire were organized and tabulated by using statistical method and percentages.