DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE – 12: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
MICROB-DSE 12: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	4	2	0	2	Class XII pass with Biology/ Biotechnology/ Biochemistry	NIL

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- The main objective of the course is to give the students a broad understanding about research approaches and tools, and importantly, an ability to deploy them in their degree programme.
- This will impart skills for critical reading of research literature, various research methods, including theory of scientific research and qualitative and quantitative methods and for developing a research proposal. The course will outline all the fundamentals of carrying out research in an ethical manner.

Learning outcomes

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- Student will be able to explain the basics of research and hypothesis formulation, the different approaches of doing research, acquiring data, and performing data analysis.
- Student will be able to describe the process of scientific writing and presenting of research data.
- Student will be able to demonstrate the process of effective literature search and writing a review.
- Student will be able to analyse datasets and present them through tables, charts and graphs.
- Student will be able to describe the process of writing proposals for research grants.

Contents:

Theory **30 hours**

Unit 1: (8 hours)

Foundation of research and research ethics: What is research, benefits of research. Selection of research topic. Effective literature search. Problem identification and hypothesis building. Qualities of a good hypothesis, hypothesis testing, null hypothesis and alternative hypothesis, logic and importance. Ethics in research: indices for scientific rigor, honesty and integrity, respect for intellectual property, responsible publication of data.

Unit 2: (14 hours)

Approaches to research and research methods: Basic and applied research, descriptive and analytical research, quantitative and qualitative research, experimental and non-experimental research. Good laboratory practices (GLP): Standard Operating Procedures, Biosafety, Radiation safety. Experimental Design. Concept of Experiment Controls. Concept of independent and dependent variables. Recording experimental protocol and data in lab notebooks, preparation for experiments. Field experiments: sampling, types of sampling studies, characteristics of a good sample, sampling frame, sample size, sampling error, scales of measurement, double blind studies. Data analysis and representation: Use of Excel for tables and charts, Common statistical tests (hypothesis of association, student t test) and introducing popular

statistical packages.

Unit 3: (8 hours)

Research Communication: Knowledge dissemination. Effective presentation in scientific conferences (Poster/oral). Structure of research paper. Structure of a thesis/dissertation. Software for scientific paper formatting (LaTeX/MS Office). Software for management of references (Mendeley/Endnote). Software for image processing. Choosing a journal for publication. Impact factor of journals. Ethical issues related to publishing, plagiarism, software for detection of plagiarism.

Practicals: **60 hours**

Unit 1: (20 hours)

Literature Search and Review: General Search Engines, Bibliographic Databases, Digital Libraries, Types of publications, literature search on a given topic and writing a review.

Unit 2: (20 hours)

Analysis and presentation of given dataset: Training in the use of Microsoft Excel for data presentations in tables, graphs and charts. Training in the use of Microsoft Powerpoint for presenting scientific findings at meetings/conferences. Writing an Abstract for paper/conference based on given data.

Unit 3: (20 hours)

Planning and writing a research proposal: General considerations, finding a research problem. Major Funding agencies in India. Mandate of the call for proposals. How to write a proposal. **Student group project**: writing a research proposal on a given topic

Suggested Reading (Theory & Practical):

1. Research Methodology for Natural Sciences by S. Banerjee. I.I.Sc. Press, India. 2022.
2. Research Methodology and Scientific Writing by C.G. Thomas. 2nd edition. Ane Books, India. 2019.
3. Scientific writing and communication by A. Hoffman. 4th edition. Oxford University Press. 2019.
4. Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques by C.R. Kothari. 4th edition. New Age International Publishers, India. 2019.
5. Testing treatments: Better research for better healthcare by I. Evans, H. Thornton, I. Chalmers and P. Glasziou. 2nd edition. Pinter & Martin Ltd, UK. 2013.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.