



Indian law Society

Certificate course on Fundamentals in Research Methodology

Course Content

Module I: Introductory: This module aims at grappling with following questions: what is research and rationale for doing research; whether research includes discovery/ invention or both; Is there a formal process for doing research; Are there any background conventions and ethical considerations to be observed while undertaking research? The module also aims at making the students conversant with basic terminology associated with research methodology. To provide inputs to the students to understand the overlaps between social research and legal research.

This module is divided into 2 units as follows:

Unit I: Pre Research phase

Unit II: Research: Meaning, Objectives, Motives, Typology, etc.

Unit III: Social research and legal research: Meaning, Nature, Scope, Purpose, Functionaries, Methods of legal research and socio legal research

Module II: Planning the research: This is a very important module and is a next logical step after researchers are introduced with basics of research methodology. This module aims at training the students with nitty-gritty involved in planning of the research. The main objectives underlying this module are to train students in formulation of research problem; preparation of research design; different methods of pursuing research; zeroing of research objective; formulation of hypothesis and research questions; review of literature; Art of distinguishing between authentic and unauthentic reference materials; How to inform a research theme with international perspective etc. This module is divided into 2 units as follows:

Unit I: Conceptual phase: Formulation of research problem, literature review, creation of verifiable hypothesis, formulation of research questions, importance of statistics in research, research design, etc.

Unit II: Application of technology in research: Use of software in research

Module III: Conducting research and writing report/thesis: Having planned the research the stage is set for undertaking the writing of thesis / research project. This is the most critical phase in the art of conducting research.

The module has following broad objectives:

1. To train the students in writing skills, to make them conversant with use of appropriate punctuations, foot noting skills, rules of citations etc.
2. To train students in writing introduction and conclusion chapters
3. To help them to understand the importance of cross referencing across the various chapters.

This module is divided into 2 units as follows:

Unit I: Validating the research problems

Unit II: Writing the final thesis

Module IV: Miscellaneous: This module covers some additional inputs like art of writing articles, application of rules of citation, reading Judgments and Statutes, undertaking field work and its relevance in empirical research.