

BOOK REVIEW

Book: Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners 5th edition

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This article reviews the book entitled, “Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners,” which went viral among social science students and had a 4.3-star rating and 136 reviews in 2019. There were also previous editions in 1999, 2005, 2010 and 2014. Its author is Ranjit Kumar, an Indian Australian academic and writer. Dr. Ranjit Kumar taught at Curtin University of Technology and Western Australia for over 30 years.

The book is published by SAGE Publishing, founded in 1965 to support propagating valuable knowledge and educating a global community. The SAGE publishes over 1000 journals and over 800 new books annually, stretching various subject areas, including archives, data, case studies, and video.

He modified the fifth edition thoroughly after hearing the feedback from previous editions. He wrote this book based on his experience and addressed many academic disciplines such as health, public health, nursing, education, social work, psychology, library studies, and marketing research.

The author intended to specifically target new students with a psychological barrier to the research methodology subject. In this book, the author designated research as a set of skills and a way of thinking. He stated that research is an integral part of our day-to-day practice in different fields with evidence-based practice. The objective of writing this book is that the reader can approach other research methods, either quantitative or qualitative, or mixed methods.

In a Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners, Dr. Kumar discussed the research process with the eight-step model. These steps are straightforward as follows -

- Step 1: Formulating the research problems
- Step 2: Conceptualizing a research design
- Step 3: Constructing an instrument for data collection
- Step 4: Collecting a sample
- Step 5: Writing a research proposal
- Step 6: Collecting data
- Step 7: Processing and display data
- Step 8: Writing a research report

Step 1: Formulating the research problems consists of four chapters. To do so, the beginners must know how to review the literature, develop a research problem, deal with variables and their measurements, and construct hypotheses.

Step 2: Conceptualizing a research design focuses on how to select the research design. A faulty research design results in misleading findings and wastes human and financial resources. Thus, beginners or researchers need to choose an appropriate research design. The researcher could justify their selection of research design, strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of the study.

Step 3: Constructing an instrument for data collection includes three chapters. These chapters explore the selection of a data collection method either on a primary or secondary method, collecting data using attitudinal scales with crucial words, and establishing the validity and reliability of research instruments with concepts.

Step 4: Collecting a sample: Dr. Kumar discussed the sampling process and types of sampling designs with pros and cons. The reader could understand all sampling strategies within one chapter.

Step 5: Writing a research proposal: the author briefly explains all contents of the research proposal: Introduction with brief literature review, theoretical framework, conceptual framework, objectives, hypotheses, research design, setting, research instruments, sampling design and sample size, ethical issues, data processing procedures, proposed chapters of the report, problems and limitations of the study and proposed time frame of the project. Dr. Kumar explained these topics within one chapter with many examples for practice.

Step 6: Collecting data: In this step, Dr. Kumar highlighted the ethical issues in the research process, especially during data collection process.

Step 7: Processing and displaying data: Data processing focuses data editing, data cleaning, data coding with a code book, pre-test the code book, verifying the coded data, statistical analysis, cross tabulation for quantitative data, and then content analysis for qualitative research. Texts, tables, graphs, charts, and line diagrams are displayed for quantitative data and integrated themes and responses are mentioned into texts for qualitative studies.

Step 8: Writing a research report: Writing a research report is the most crucial part of the research process; the reader can learn the differences between writing quantitative and qualitative research reports from this book. In addition, there are different styles for referencing and writing a bibliography.

These steps are explained into details for quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. These are similar to most of the research methodology books. Dr. Kumar emphasized the summary, checked reader's understanding, and applied it to reader's project at the end of each chapter. These are differences from other research methodology textbooks.

To sum up, this book provides knowledge on research methodology: both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Moreover, it is a handy tool for writing an excellent academic and applied research paper.

Dr Kumar presents research methodology, a complicated subject in simple and clear writing style and thus empowers readers to challenge research with self-confidence. Therefore, I utterly recommend the book "Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners 5th

edition” because it is a good guideline for beginners’ basic understanding and utilizes the steps in other research papers. This offers the researcher perception of any biases or gaps in advanced studies and how the hassle is offered and addressed. The aggregate of those strategies could be extraordinarily beneficial in directing the look because it tries to clear up the modern challenge.