

## DESIGNING AND CONDUCTING APPLIED SOCIAL WELFARE RESEARCH PROJECTS

### OVERVIEW OF COURSE CONTENT AND PEDAGOGY

*Designing and Conducting Applied Social Welfare Research Projects* provides training in applied social welfare research using a participatory or *learning-by-doing* design. Participants may concentrate on research using quantitative or qualitative methodologies or a combination of the two. Participants learn how to do research while preparing a research proposal and in the process carefully considering all the different options and possibilities for research. At the end of the course, participants have a proposal and plan for research that they are ready to submit for funding or take to the field to begin research.

### COURSE DELIVERY AND REQUIREMENTS

This course uses the manual *Designing and Conducting Applied Social Welfare Research Projects: Volume 1* and requires approximately between 100 and 170 hours total time for instruction, personal and group work. It is ideally taught in once/week instructional sessions over the course of a 12-14 week academic term (36-39 hours of instruction and presentations), with most personal and group work in preparing the research proposal and conducting pretests of the methods outside the classroom time. However, the full course may also be conducted as a two-week intensive for highly committed and experienced social welfare practitioners, or, alternatively, modules may be conducted as distinct workshops for applied social welfare researchers who want training (or review) in the content of a particular module.

#### Faculty Training

In preparation for teaching the course, faculty will participate in a 5 day (7 hrs/day) rapid introduction to *Designing and Conducting Applied Social Welfare Research Projects*. This will be taught as a *train-the-trainer* seminar. It is assumed that participants have experience in teaching and in conducting research that fits within the applied social welfare paradigm, broadly defined. Participants will not be able to complete a research proposal as part of this seminar, but will leave the seminar with a familiarity with the pedagogy of the course, the course manual and instructional materials, and with the steps required to complete a research proposal.

Note that pages listed below are from the course manual which all participants should have prior to beginning this intensive seminar.

**Day 1: Module 1** – Preparation and articulation of research goals, objectives and research questions.

9 – 10 am	Opening and Introductions
10 – 11 am	Overview of the course and the week Manual pages 3-24
10:30 – noon	Module 1 A and B: Prioritizing Topics and Stating the Research Problem -- pages 25-49
Noon – 1 pm	Lunch
1 – 2:30 pm	Module 1: Formulating Research Objectives - pages 73-80
2:30 – 4 pm	Module 2A: Variables - pages 91-112

**Day 2: Module 2** – Designing research

9 – 9:30 am	Participant feedback from Day 1
9:30 – 11 am	Modules 2B and C: Study Types, including Action Research - pages 113-148
11 – noon	Module 2D: Data Collection Techniques - pages 149-164
Noon – 1 pm	Lunch
1 – 3 pm	Module 2E: Ethics - pages 164-172
3 – 4 pm	Module 3A: Questionnaire Development – pages 185-200

**Day 3: Module 3 – Quantitative research.**

9 – 9:30 am	Participant feedback from Day 2
9:30 – 10:30 am	Modules 3B & C: Sampling & Bias– pages 201-220
10:30 – noon	Module 3D and E: Planning Data Collection, Processing & Analysis – pages 221-258
Noon – 2 pm	Lunch
2 - 4 pm	Module 3F: Pre-testing - pages 259-272
2:30 – 4:30 pm	Module 1C: Literature Reviews - pages 53-72

**Day 4: Module 4 – Qualitative research**

9 – 9:30 am	Participant feedback from Day 3
9:30 – 10:30 am	Module 4A: Interview Guide Development – pages 283-296
10:30 – noon	Module 4B: Conducting IDIs and FGDs – pages 297-314
Noon – 1 pm	Lunch
1 – 2:30 pm	Module 4C & D: Sampling and Bias – pages 315-330
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Module 4E & F: Planning Data Collection , Processing & Analysis – pages 331-352
3:30 – 4 pm	Module 4G: Pre-testing – pages 355-368

**Day 5: Modules 5, 6 and 7 – Finalizing the research proposal; Research management; Field work preparation.**

9 – 9:30 am	Participant feedback from Day 4
9:30 – 10:30 am	Module 5: Finalizing the Proposal – pages 369-384
10:30 – noon	Modules 6A; Workplan – pages 391-400
Noon – 1 pm	Lunch
1 – 2 pm	Module 6B: Budget – pages 401-408
2 - 3 pm	Module 6C: Project Administration, Monitoring, Dissemination Plans – pages 409 - 418
3 – 4 pm	Module 7: Preparation for Fieldwork – pages 419-444