Objectives: The objective of this paper is to help the students to develop an understanding of designing research projects, analysing and presenting data as these are important when they seek employment in any organisation or institution dealing with social issues. Moreover, the paper is also very relevant for students planning to pursue M.Phil. or Ph.D. programme.

Unit I: Introduction
Key features of research in Social sciences. Methodological approaches and types of research: Ethnography, Research Diaries, Case Study, Interviewing and Focus Groups, pure & applied research, descriptive research, historical research, experimental research, case study, evaluation Research and interdisciplinary research. Major issues in research in women’s studies: Feminist Methodologies, Critical Theories of Race, Action Research, Researching Policy.

Preparing research design: Characteristics of research design, components of research design, selection and statement of research problem, sources of research problems, criteria of a good research problem. Review of literature. Ethical issues relating to research.

Unit II: Data Collection and Analysis
Planning for data collection; Population, Sample, Sampling techniques; Methods of collection of Primary Data: Direct personal observation, indirect oral investigation, Information received through local agents and correspondents, questionnaires. Characteristics of good questionnaire. Interview schedules, kinds of schedules. Pre-testing of schedules and questionnaires. Secondary data: Sources, Limitations of Secondary Data, Precautions in the use of Secondary Data.

Definition of Hypothesis, problems in formulating hypothesis, importance and testing of hypothesis. Editing, coding, classification and tabulation of data. Descriptive statistics: scales of measurement, organising research data, measures of central tendency.

Unit III: Presentation of Information and Writing of a Research Report

Readings: