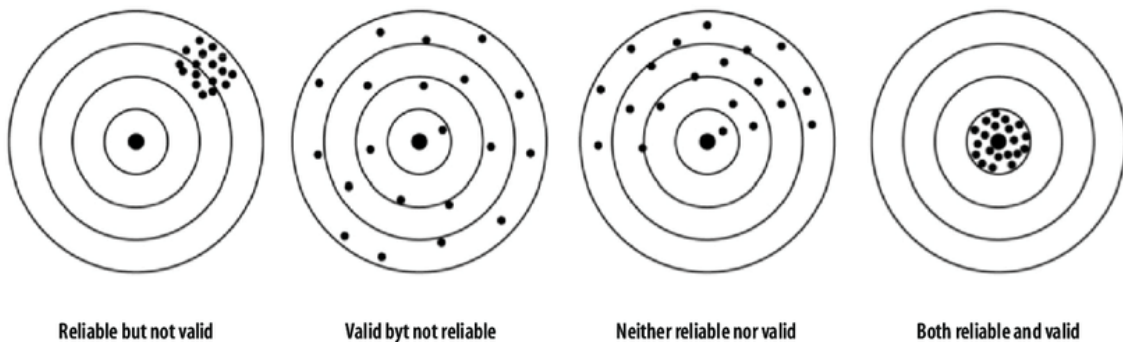


1. What is reliability and validity? Critically examine its importance in sociological research. 20

Model Structure

Introduction

- Reliability and Validity are the two important parameters that determine the correctness and effectiveness of an observation.
- Both are two major challenges in sociology as the environment of social experiment (society) is not controlled.



Main Body

- Reliability
 - Repetition of the same results
 - Types: Temporal reliability and comparative reliability
 - Examples of research methods with high reliability- sampling, surveys etc
- Validity - Extent to which an instrument measures what it is supposed to measure.
 - Degree of achieving intended results
- Importance of Reliability and Validity
 - To produce useful results.
 - Gives more legitimacy to quantitative analysis
 - Makes sociology as a positive science

- Positivism claims reliability and validity.
- Furthers objective analysis in sociology
- Concerns:
 - Reliability and validity (R&V) cannot be tested as there is little scope for controlled experimentation in social domain
 - Marxist, Feminist and sub-altern perspectives criticises it by saying reliable and valid sociological researches are nothing trying to advocate status quo in the society.
 - Obsession with R&V might incentivise researchers to spend their time accumulating and manipulating data to claim validity
 - Interpretivists deny the possibility of using scientific methods in sociology thereby making it impossible to check validity. (Human consciousness cannot be captured using any method)
- **Conclusion**
 - Lincoln and Guba: to overcome limitations of Reliability and Validity, alternative terms like trustworthiness, credibility, transferability, and conformability can be used to suit the nature of research
 - Sociologists should focus on the relevance of a research by looking beyond the reliability and validity debate. (Hammersly)

2. Participant observation is the most effective tool for collecting facts. Discuss Critically.**10****Model Framework:****Introduction**

- Definition of Participant Observation method - The participant observation method, also known as ethnographic research, is when a sociologist actually becomes a part of the group they are studying in order to collect data and understand a social phenomenon or problem.

Main Body

- Emergence -
 - Influence of Anthropological Field View - Malinowski
- Features -
 - Field View - Talcott Parsons, M N Srinivas, S C Dube
 - Actual participation
- Benefits (add examples in each of following points)
 - Actual Ground Reality
 - Identify Manifest and Latent functions
 - Discards personal Biases
 - Reliable data
- Limitations (add examples in each of following points) -
 - Social Desirability Bias
 - Ethical concerns
 - Alienation by the Target Groups
 - Opposition from the Target Groups
 - Time and resource consuming
 - Observer might get involved with the subjects can't see the reality as outsider
 - Observer may develop sympathy for the group to be observed resulting in an emotional attachment (William Whyte)

Conclusion

- Enriching the understanding of Villages, tribals, castes, minorities etc in Indian Society