Training course on Applied Research Methods for Social Protection

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Social Protection	**Duration**	10 Days
Base Fee	$3,000 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

Applied Research Methods for Social Protection is a crucial and interdisciplinary field that equips practitioners and researchers with the skills to systematically investigate, analyze, and generate evidence to inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of social protection programs. In a world grappling with persistent poverty, rising inequalities, and new vulnerabilities, robust research is essential for understanding complex social problems, identifying effective solutions, and ensuring that social protection interventions are evidence-based, equitable, and impactful. This course moves beyond theoretical concepts to focus on the practical application of diverse research methodologies, enabling participants to conduct rigorous studies that contribute directly to policy and program improvement. Training Course on Applied Research Methods for Social Protection is meticulously designed to equip with the advanced theoretical insights and intensive practical tools necessary to excel in Applied Research Methods for Social Protection. We will delve into the foundational concepts of research design and ethics, master the intricacies of both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis, and explore cutting-edge approaches to mixed methods, impact evaluation, and knowledge translation. A significant focus will be placed on hands-on application, analyzing real-world complex social protection issues, and developing tailored research plans that are both rigorous and practical. By integrating industry best practices, analyzing complex case studies, and engaging in intensive practical exercises, attendees will develop the strategic acumen to confidently lead and implement high-quality research, fostering unparalleled evidence generation, informed decision-making, and sustainable social protection outcomes.

Programme Curriculum

Training Course on Applied Research Methods for Social Protection

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Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Analyze the fundamental concepts of **applied research** and its role in social protection.
2. Comprehend the principles of **research design** and formulating clear research questions.
3. Master various **quantitative research methods** for social protection studies.
4. Develop expertise in **qualitative research methods** for in-depth understanding.
5. Formulate strategies for applying **mixed-methods research designs** in social protection.
6. Understand the critical role of **impact evaluation methodologies** (RCTs, QEDs) in applied research.
7. Implement robust approaches to **data collection, quality assurance, and management**.
8. Explore key strategies for **data analysis** using appropriate software tools.
9. Apply methodologies for ensuring **ethical conduct and data privacy** in all research stages.
10. Understand the importance of **contextual analysis** in applied social protection research.
11. Develop preliminary skills in **writing research reports and policy briefs**.
12. Design a comprehensive **applied research plan** for a social protection topic.
13. Examine **global best practices and lessons learned** in applied social protection research.

Target Audience

This course is essential for professionals seeking to conduct or commission research in social protection:

1. **Social Protection Policymakers & Program Managers:** Needing evidence to inform decisions.
2. **Researchers & Academics:** Specializing in social policy and development studies.
3. **M&E Specialists:** Seeking to deepen their research methodology skills.
4. **Data Analysts:** Interested in applying research methods to social issues.
5. **Government Officials:** From planning, research, and social welfare departments.
6. **Development Practitioners:** From NGOs and international organizations.
7. **Consultants:** Providing research and evaluation services.
8. **Civil Society Organizations:** Engaged in evidence-based advocacy.

Course Duration: 10 Days

Course Modules

Module 1: Foundations of Applied Research in Social Protection

- Define applied research and its distinction from basic research.
- Discuss the role of research in informing social protection policy and programs.
- Understand the research process: from problem identification to dissemination.
- Explore different research paradigms and their implications.
- Identify key ethical principles guiding all research.

Module 2: Research Design and Question Formulation

- Comprehend the principles of robust research design.
- Learn to formulate clear, answerable, and policy-relevant research questions.
- Differentiate between descriptive, explanatory, and evaluative research questions.
- Understand the importance of a conceptual framework or Theory of Change.
- Plan for the scope, feasibility, and resources of a research study.

Module 3: Quantitative Research Methods

- Master various quantitative research methods for social protection.
- Learn about survey research design and questionnaire development.
- Understand sampling techniques for quantitative studies.
- Explore the use of administrative data and secondary data sources.
- Discuss basic statistical concepts relevant to quantitative research.

Module 4: Qualitative Research Methods

- Develop expertise in qualitative research methods for in-depth understanding.
- Learn to conduct Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).
- Understand observational techniques and case study methodology.
- Discuss the iterative nature of qualitative data collection and analysis.
- Explore ethical considerations specific to qualitative research.

Module 5: Mixed-Methods Research Designs

- Formulate strategies for applying mixed-methods research designs.
- Understand the rationale for combining quantitative and qualitative data.
- Explore different mixed-methods designs (e.g., convergent, sequential).
- Learn techniques for integrating data at various stages of research.
- Analyze case studies of mixed-methods research in social protection.

Module 6: Impact Evaluation Methodologies

- Understand the critical role of impact evaluation in applied research.
- Revisit Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs): design, implementation, analysis.
- Explore Quasi-Experimental Designs (QEDs): DiD, PSM, RDD.
- Discuss the challenges of causal inference in real-world settings.
- Learn to select the appropriate impact evaluation methods

Module 7: Data Collection and Quality Assurance

- Implement robust approaches to data collection for various methods.
- Learn about digital data collection tools and platforms.
- Discuss strategies for ensuring data quality, validity, and reliability.
- Understand fieldwork management and enumerator training.
- Address common data collection challenges in social protection research.

Module 8: Data Analysis Techniques

- Explore key strategies for data analysis using appropriate software tools.
- Learn quantitative data analysis techniques (descriptive, inferential statistics).
- Master qualitative data analysis techniques (thematic, content analysis).
- Understand how to analyze data from mixed-methods studies.
- Gain hands-on experience with statistical software (Stata, R, or Python basics).

Module 9: Ethical Conduct and Data Privacy

- Apply methodologies for ensuring ethical conduct throughout all research stages.
- Master informed consent processes for diverse populations.
- Understand principles of data privacy, confidentiality, and security.
- Discuss data protection regulations and responsible data sharing.
- Address ethical dilemmas in social protection research.

Module 10: Contextual Analysis in Applied Research

- Understand the importance of contextual analysis in social protection research.
- Explore how socio-political, economic, and cultural factors influence program outcomes.
- Discuss methods for incorporating contextual insights into research design.
- Learn to analyze the feasibility and adaptability of interventions to different contexts.
- Examine the role of local knowledge in informing research.

Module 11: Research Reporting and Dissemination

- Develop preliminary skills in writing clear and concise research reports.
- Learn to structure research papers and academic publications.
- Discuss strategies for translating research findings into policy briefs.
- Explore different dissemination channels for reaching diverse audiences.
- Practice presenting research findings effectively.

Module 12: Knowledge Translation and Utilization

- Understand the process of knowledge translation (KT) in social protection.
- Learn strategies for facilitating the uptake and utilization of research evidence.
- Discuss the role of researchers in influencing policy and practice.
- Explore mechanisms for fostering a research-to-policy feedback loop.
- Analyze case studies of successful knowledge translation in social protection.

Training Methodology

- **Interactive Workshops:** Facilitated discussions, group exercises, and problem-solving activities.
- **Case Studies:** Real-world examples to illustrate successful community-based surveillance practices.

- **Role-Playing and Simulations:** Practice engaging communities in surveillance activities.
- **Expert Presentations:** Insights from experienced public health professionals and community leaders.
- **Group Projects:** Collaborative development of community surveillance plans.
- **Action Planning:** Development of personalized action plans for implementing community-based surveillance.
- **Digital Tools and Resources:** Utilization of online platforms for collaboration and learning.
- **Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Sharing experiences and insights on community engagement.
- **Post-Training Support:** Access to online forums, mentorship, and continued learning resources.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call +254769199797

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

- Participants must be conversant in English.
- Upon completion of training, participants will receive an Authorized Training Certificate.
- The course duration is flexible and can be modified to fit any number of days.
- Course fee includes facilitation, training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch, and a Certificate upon successful completion.
- One-year post-training support, consultation, and coaching provided after the course.
- Payment should be made at least a week before the training commencement to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice, to enable better preparation.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Online	$2,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$9,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

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