

POSITION AND PERSPECTIVE OF STATISTICS IN SOCIOLOGY

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INTRODUCTION

Stating that Statistics in Sociology is necessary leads to the issue of adequate education of sociologists. The following research is to show the importance of Statistics on undergraduate academic studies of Sociology in the Republic of Serbia, based on the analysis of curriculums available on Internet websites.

First, different programs of the Department of Sociology of the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad are analyzed, together with the results of students' evaluations in the academic years 2007/2008 and 2009/2010, and then the curriculums of Sociology at three universities of the Republic of Serbia and the neighboring countries have been compared.

RESEARCH RESULTS

According to the above stated examples and comparisons related to the courses of Statistics for Sociology students at different universities, we can see a substantial discrepancy in understanding whether Statistics is required in Sociology as a scientific discipline. It was stated above that there are some Sociology study programs with no course of Statistics, and there are also certain programs which provide students with a certain level of knowledge in Statistics. On the other hand, some of them provide students not only with the knowledge in statistical methods applied in Sociology, but also a suitable correlation between the courses in scientific research methodology and statistics. Such unbalanced education of sociologists results in controversial viewpoints related to acceptance and application of Statistics. The corpus of the research works in sociology ranges from unjustified or incorrectly tested theoretical standpoints, to adequate and valid sociological analysis.

Based on previous experience in lecturing Statistics, the authors are of the opinion that knowledge in Statistics is necessary and unavoidable in future education of Sociology students at their undergraduate academic studies, as well as at their master and doctoral studies.

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