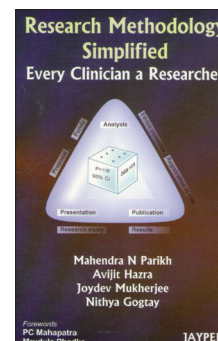


Research Methodology Simplified Every Clinician a Researcher

Parikh M. N., Hazra A., Mukherjee J., Gogtay N. Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers; New Delhi: 2010. pp. 1260.



Globalization has brought in a surge of both industry-driven and investigator-initiated clinical research activities in India. It is often criticized that we lack trained manpower to undertake any serious clinical research. In this context, it is really heartwarming to see native Indian authors pen down a handy compendium on research methodology.

The book is broad in its appeal—from students in training to accomplished clinicians. Its coverage of topics is really awesome—from planning to publication of research. What is really a good sign is that topics such as research ethics and scientific misconduct have been touched upon, that too in reasonable detail. This is a welcome deviation from the number-centric approach to clinical research adopted by many dry texts in vogue. Such a wide coverage of seemingly disparate, yet related, topics makes this book a good starting point for a beginner. Even a seasoned researcher would find interesting historical information here and there.

No doubt, it is often difficult to strike a balance between the breadth and depth of coverage. The authors stutter in their

attempt to “distributive justice” in the section on Biostatistics (Part II). Sparingly used statistical procedures such as biserial correlation find a place, while clinically relevant ones such as the Bland-Altman plot, interpretation of confidence intervals, and receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curves are left asking for more pages. Worked out examples are a few. In particular, illustrative examples from published literature would have made a good reading, I hope. What is glaringly missing is any cursory information on systematic reviews and meta-analytic techniques. The index is very limited, and some topics such as the ones on “Data—the core of your study” (Chapter 3) and “Good clinical practices” (Chapter 18) may not be placed in the right context.

Leaving behind all these nit-picking, this book is a commendable effort “by the clinicians, for the clinicians.” I think that underscores the byline of the title “Every clinician a researcher.”

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