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THEORY OF ATTRIBUTES

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THEORY OF ATTRIBUTES

You have studied quantitative techniques in Block 1. The purpose of those techniques is to make you aware of the measures of Central Tendency, measures of Dispersion and measures of Skewness and Kurtosis which describe a set of quantitative data. The concept of statistical relationship between two variables is discussed in Block 2. The concepts of regression analysis are elaborated in Block 3.

The statistical methods discussed in these three blocks are based on the data whose actual magnitude can be measured. However, in some situations, data might be such that it may not be possible to measure their actual magnitude. One can only study the presence or absence of a particular quality or attribute. The statistical methodology for the analysis of such type of data will be slightly different. The present block is mainly concerned with the qualitative characteristics and analysis of qualitative data. Such type of data arises when a sample from some population is classified with respect to two or more qualitative variables. We may then “count” the number of individuals in each category.

This block contains four units. In Unit 13, we shall commence by defining various terms, introducing nomenclature and describing how such kind of data arise. The consistency of the data, independence of the attributes and the condition of independence are discussed in Unit 14. Unit 15 deals with the association of attributes, types of association and the methods to measure the association of attributes. Unit 16 is primarily concerned with the concept of the contingency tables and general notations for higher dimensional contingency tables. This unit also introduces Chi-Square Test for investigating the degree of association between two qualitative variables.

Suggested Readings:

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Notations and Symbols

A	:	Presence of attribute A
B	:	Presence of attribute B
C	:	Presence of attribute C
AB	:	Presence of attributes A & B
ABC	:	Presence of attributes A, B & C
α	:	Absence of attribute A
β	:	Absence of attribute B
γ	:	Absence of attribute C
(A)	:	Positive class frequency of attribute A
(α)	:	Negative class frequency of attribute A
(A α)	:	Contrary class frequency of attributes A and α
(AB)	:	Positive class frequency of attributes A and B
(AB) ₀	:	Association of attributes A and B
Q	:	Yule's coefficient of association
γ	:	Coefficient of colligation
(A _i)	:	Number of persons possessing the attribute A _i
$\sum A_i = N$:	Total frequency
χ^2	:	Chi-square
ϕ^2	:	Mean square contingency
C	:	Karl Pearson's coefficient of mean square contingency