

Use of statistical methods in sociology

KATARINA ČOBANOVIĆ (*Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia, katcob@polj.ns.ac.yu*)

VALENTINA SOKOLOVSKA (*Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia, valentinas@neobee.net*)

Data analysis in human sciences needs the use of statistical methods. Statistical techniques could provide explanations of how and why some statistical methods are used. The aim of the paper is oriented to the possibilities of use of statistical methods both in education and in research in the field of sociology. Sociology and other human sciences, like psychology, demography, economics and other, do need the use of statistical techniques.

Paper is focused on the analysis of data and the use of adequate statistical methods. Some statistical methods are more suitable for quantitative, some for qualitative data. The paper is oriented to data analysis and the choice of appropriate method. Like in other fields of science, in sociology, too, it is necessary to deal with some simple and some more complicated statistical procedures like: descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, based on the sample survey, dealing with hypothesis testing, significance tests and analysis of variance, linear and multiple correlation and regression techniques, analysis of frequency data using chi-square, nonparametric statistical procedures, multivariate methods etc.

The emphasis in the paper is on use of statistical methods in the education and teaching of statistics and research work in sociology. Presented examples serve in illustration of wide use of statistical methods.

Keywords: statistical methods in sociology, education, research work, types of data, analysis of data