

EMPIRICAL LEGAL RESEARCH



Empirical Legal Research

“An empirical study of interaction of human rights defenders with the society in the context restrictive legal environment facing human rights NGOs: A case-study of Russia”

- How does society affect HRDs' security?
- Effects of the legislation?

My research design:

- Case-study
- Mixed methods: quantitative+qualitative
- Explanatory

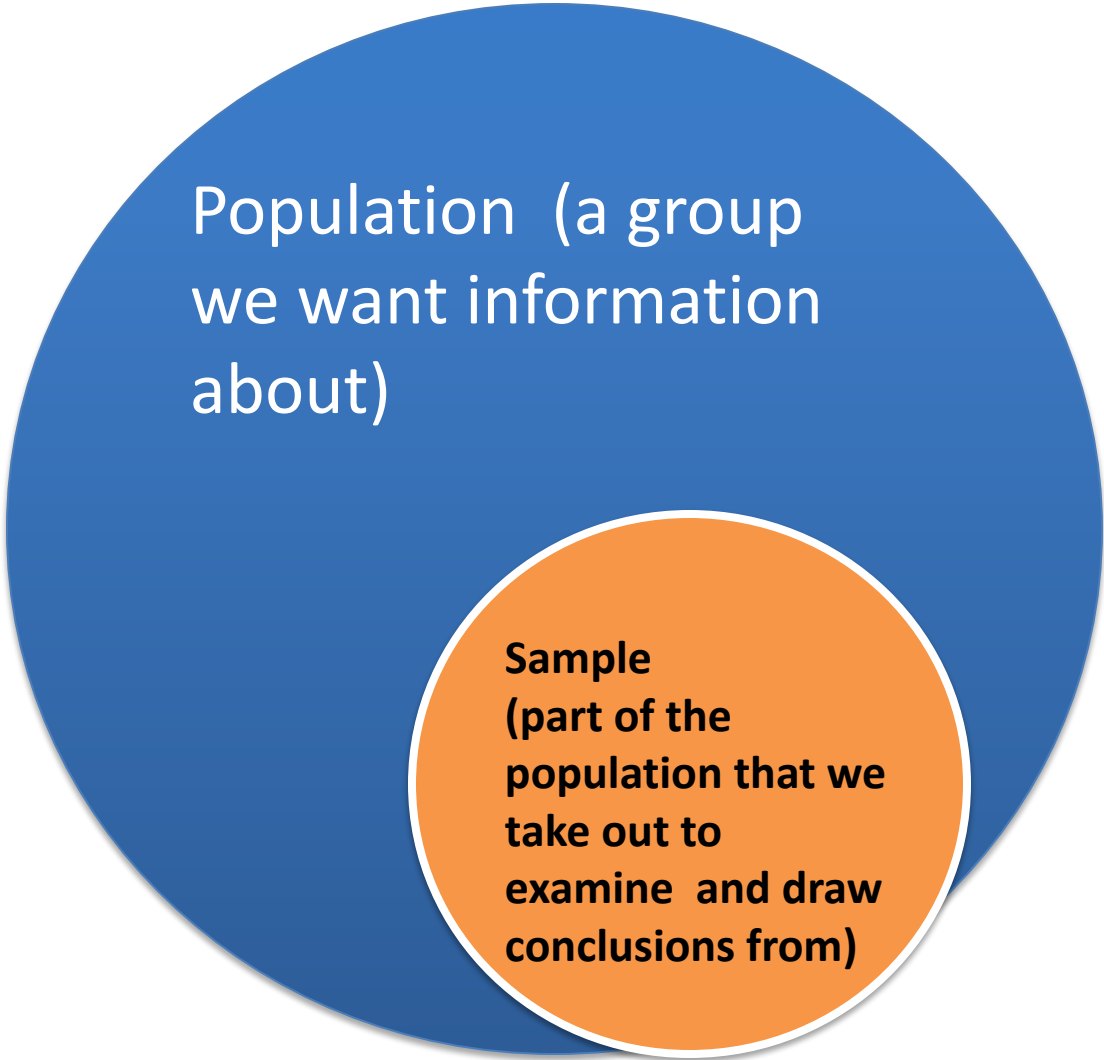
Quantitative

- Public opinion survey: social attitudes towards human rights groups (in the context of the existing legislation)
- HYPOTHESIS: (flows from research questions, your intuition and information available) - a possible or tentative answer to a question.

Challenge

Conducting it!

Sample



Population (a group we want information about)

Sample
(part of the population that we take out to examine and draw conclusions from)

Sample has to be **representative**
(closely matches the characteristics of the population)

- Big enough
- Unbiased sampling technique: everyone has to have a chance to be asked

Determining sample size

Use Partem (1950) formula as:

$$n = \frac{NZ^2 * 0.25}{d^2}$$

$$d^2 * (N - 1) + (Z^2 * 0.25)$$

Where n = the sample size required and which is statistically representative

N = the target population size

d = confidence level (0.05)

Z = number of standard deviation units of the sampling distribution corresponding to the desired confidence level given as 1.96.

Sampling techniques

- Convenience
- Voluntary response

BIAS

- Simple random sampling



- Multi-stage sampling –

the sampling is carried out in several stages such that the sample size gets reduced at each stage.

Then, one or more clusters are chosen at random and everyone within the chosen cluster is sampled.



Correlation

Relationship between variables



Qualitative

Interviews:

aim to generate information about interviewee's attitudes, opinions and points of view and are a helpful tool for exploring phenomena in depth. It is also a tool for understanding and exploring the social world and the relationship between people

(Bickman and Rog, *The Sage Handbook of Applied Social Research Methods* (Sage Publication 2009)).

- Snowball sampling
- Key informants: rights defenders at human rights NGOs
- Semi-structured interviews
- Interview
- Avoid leading questions
- Ethics