Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is descriptive statistics?

Answer: Data collection is the easiest and fun filled activity, but conveying what is found in the data is a difficult job so we use statistics to describe the data. This branch of statistics is called descriptive statistics as it helps in describing the data collected.

2. What is a measure of central tendency?

Answer: While describing the data we can use single score numbers that represent the entire data. To represent the data in single scores we use the measures of central tendency

3. What is a measure of variation or dispersion?

Answer: A measure of dispersion is designed to state the extent to which the individual measures differ on an average from the mean.

.4. What is the purpose of the measure of variation?

Answer: Measure of variation is used to determine the reliability of an average, serve as a basis for the control of the variability, compare two or more series with regard to their variability, facilitate the use of other statistical measures and to establish trend in time series.

5. What is control of variability?

Answer: Control variability is used to determine the nature and cause of the variation in order to control the variation itself. For example if we take the health matters we need to know the variation in the body temperature, pulse beat or blood pressure which helps in guiding the treatment to be designed to control the variation.

6. What is a good measure of variation?

Answer: A good measure of variation is that value which is be simple to understand, easy to compute, rigidly defined, considers each and every item of the distribution, amenable to further algebraic treatment, have sampling stability and should not be unduly affected by the extreme items.

7. What are the two types of measures of dispersion?

Answer: The two of measures of dispersion are absolute measure and relative measure.

8. What is an absolute measure?

Answer: An absolute measure of variation is expressed in the same statistical unit in which the original data are given. That is, when the observations are in kilograms, the absolute measure is also in kilograms.

9. What is a Relative measure?

Answer: A measure of relative variation is the ratio of a measure of absolute variation to an average. These measures are a sort of ratio and are called coefficients.

10. What are the various absolute measures?

Answer: The various absolute measures are Range, Quartiles, Interquartile Range, Mean deviation and Standard Deviation.

11. What is a Range?

Answer: Range is the simplest method of studying variation. It is defined as the difference between the value of the smallest item and the value of the largest item in the distribution.

12. What is a Lorenz Curve?

Answer: A Lorenz curve is a graphic method of studying the dispersion. It is used to study the inequality in the distribution of income and wealth between countries and between time periods.

13. What are the parameters defined to determine the right measure of dispersion?

Answer: The appropriate selection of the measures of variation or dispersion for a given set of data depends on two parameters: The type of data available and the purpose of investigation.

14. What are the Merits of measures of dispersion?

Answer: Measures of dispersion give us a picture of centre of the data and in certain instances, it may be desirable to examine further, how the other members of the set of data are dispersed about the measure of central tendency.

15. When are the demerits of measures of dispersion?

Answer: It does not determine the modal group and it does not determine the median of a large grouped distribution.