

## Chapter 6

# Measures of Dispersion

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### Dispersion

“It is the measure of the variation of the item”. According to Spiegel, “The degree to which numerical data tend to spread about an average value is called the variation or dispersion of the data”.

Different methods of measuring dispersion are

- Range
- Quartile deviation
- Mean deviation
- Standard deviation

**Range** Range is the difference between the highest value and the lowest value in a series.

$$R = H - L \text{ or } L - S$$

H or L = Highest or Largest value of series

L or S = Lowest or Smallest value of series

$$\text{Coefficient of range} = \frac{H-L}{H+L} \text{ or } \frac{L-S}{L+S}$$

Calculation of Range and Coefficient of Range

(i) Individual Series and Discrete Series

$$\text{Range} = H - L \text{ or } L - S$$

$$\text{Coefficient of Range} = \frac{H-L}{H+L} \text{ or } \frac{L-S}{L+S}$$

(ii) Frequency Distribution Series

- Mid values of the class interval are found, difference between the highest and lowest values would be the range.
- According to this method, we find the difference between lower limit of the first class interval and upper limit of the last class interval in the series would be the range.

(iii) Inter Quartile Range

Difference between third quartile ( $Q_3$ ) and first quartile of a series, is called Inter



quartile range.

$$IQR = Q_3 - Q_1$$

### Quartile Deviation

Quartile deviation is half of inter quartile range.

$$QD = \frac{Q_3 - Q_1}{2}$$

It is also called semi-inter quartile range.

(i) Coefficient of Quartile Deviation (Coefficient of QD)

$$\text{Coefficient of QD} = \frac{Q_3 - Q_1}{Q_3 + Q_1}$$

(ii) Calculation of Quartile Deviation

(a) Individual Series and Discrete Series First find out  $Q_1$  and  $Q_3$  from the following equations

$$Q_1 = \text{Size of } \left( \frac{N+1}{4} \right) \text{th item}$$

$$Q_3 = \text{Size of } 3 \left( \frac{N+1}{4} \right) \text{th item}$$

$$QD = \frac{Q_3 - Q_1}{2}, \quad \text{Coefficient of QD} = \frac{Q_3 - Q_1}{Q_3 + Q_1}$$

(b) Frequency Distribution

$$Q_1 = L_1 + \frac{i}{f}(Q_1 - C)$$

$$Q_3 = L_1 + \frac{i}{f}(Q_3 - C)$$

$$QD = \frac{Q_3 - Q_1}{2}$$

$$\text{Coefficient of QD} = \frac{Q_3 - Q_1}{Q_3 + Q_1}$$

### Mean Deviation

“Mean deviation is the arithmetic average of deviation of all the values taken from a statistical average of series. In taking deviation of values, algebraic signs + and - are not taken into consideration, that is negative deviations are also treated as positive deviations”.

(i) Formulas for Mean Deviation

(a) If deviations are taken from median, the following formula is used

$$Q_1 = L_1 + \frac{i}{f}(Q_1 - C)$$

$$Q_3 = L_1 + \frac{i}{f}(Q_3 - C)$$

$$QD = \frac{Q_3 - Q_1}{2}$$

$$\text{Coefficient of QD} = \frac{Q_3 - Q_1}{Q_3 + Q_1}$$

(b) If deviation are taken from arithmetic mean of the series

$$MD_M = \frac{\sum |X - M|}{N} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\sum |dM|}{N}$$

(ii) Coefficient of Mean Deviation

- Coefficient of mean deviation from Mean =  $MDX \overline{X}$
- Coefficient of MD from Median = MDMM
- Coefficient of MD from Mode = MDZZ

(iii) Calculation of Mean Deviation or Coefficient of Mean Deviation

(a) Individual Series

Estimating MD through Median,  $MD = \sum |dM|N$

Estimating MD through Mean,  $MD = \sum |dX \overline{X}|N$

Estimating Coefficient of MD through Median Coefficient of MD = MDMM

Estimating Coefficient of MD through Mean Coefficient of MD =  $MDX \overline{X}$

(b) Discrete Series

Estimating MD through median,  $MD_M = \sum f|dm|N$

Estimating MD through mean,  $MDX \overline{X} = \sum f|dX \overline{X}|N$

Estimating Coefficient of MD through Median Coefficient of MD = MDMM

Estimating Coefficient of MD through Median Coefficient of MD =  $MDX \overline{X}$

(c) Frequency Distribution Series

Mean deviation from Median,  $MD_M = \sum f|dM|\sum f$

Coefficient of MD = MDMM

Mean deviation from Mean,  $MDX \overline{X} = \sum f|dX \overline{X}|\sum f$

Coefficient of MD =  $MDX \overline{X}$

## Standard Deviation

Standard deviation is the square root of the arithmetic mean of the squares of deviations of the items from their mean values.

## Coefficient of Standard Deviation

This is a relative measure of the dispersion of series.

Coefficient of standard deviation (Coefficient of  $\sigma$ ) =  $\sigma \bar{X}$

(i) Calculation of Standard Deviation

(a) Direct Method

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum X^2}{N}} \quad \text{or} \quad \sqrt{\frac{\sum (X - \bar{X})^2}{N}}$$

Here,  $\sigma$  = Standard Deviation;

$\sum X^2$  = Sum total of the squares of deviation,

$\bar{X}$  = Mean Value,

$X - \bar{X}$  = Deviation from mean value;

N = number of items

(b) Short-cut Method

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum dX^2}{N} - \left(\frac{\sum dX}{N}\right)^2}$$

(c) Step Deviation Method

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum dX'^2}{N} - \left(\frac{\sum dX'}{N}\right)^2} \times C$$

(ii) Calculation of Coefficient of Variation

(a) Individual series =  $\sigma \bar{X} \times 100$

(b) Discrete series =  $\sigma \bar{X} \times 100$

(c) Frequency distribution series =  $\sigma \bar{X} \times 100$

## Lorenz Curve

It is a curve that shows deviation of actual distribution from the showing equal distribution.

(i) Construction of the Lorenz Curve

- Calculate class mid-points
- Calculate cumulative frequencies as in column 6
- Express the grand total of column 3 and 6 as 100 and convert the cumulative totals in these columns in to percentage.
- Now, on the graph paper, take the cumulative percentage of the variable on Y-axis and cumulative percentages of X-axis.
- Draw a line joining co-ordinate (0, 0) with (100,100) this is called the line of equal distribution.
- Plot the cumulative percentages of the variable with cumulative percentages of frequency.