

## BIostatistics-AN INTRODUCTION

Dr P. Mariappan\*

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The book “Biostatistics-An introduction” written by Dr P. Mariappan is a much needed book for the students and researchers of Biological sciences. Though, the tools of mathematics like statistics have been used right from Mendel’s time in a limited way, Biologists in general have an aversion towards mathematics. However, Biology, the dominating science of the present century, has exploded in a big way and research in many areas requires the analyses of voluminous data to arrive at meaningful conclusions. Hence, a basic knowledge of statistics has become imperative for the modern biologists. This book is trying to provide a sound knowledge on the basics of Biostatistics.

The book has thirteen chapters organized in a logical manner starting from data structure, source and collection and gradually presenting the analyses of the data. Objectives of each chapter have been spelt out so that the reader knows what to look for in each chapter. The technical terms have been explained in simple terms for easy understanding. The flow charts definitely help the readers to understand the concepts. The author has described the merits and demerits of each method so that a suitable method can be applied by the user.

The years of teaching experience that the author has helped him to understand the problems that the students face in learning the subject and has presented the whole gamut of statistical tools in a lucid manner. One of the best features of the book is the number of worked out examples in each chapter. Each example has been worked out in easy steps and wherever required alternate method has been given. Also, each chapter has a series of

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objective questions that not only help to focus the student's attention on the learning task at hand but also of much use in the exams.

While the objectives of the book to introduce statistics to biologists have been fairly achieved, a small list of advanced text books with their ISBN numbers at the end of each chapter would have helped the readers to know more details on the topic. There are many tools of statistics that the biologists learn but have no definite idea of using them professionally. Hence, an account on the situations where the specific tools can be used could have been given. Index can be expanded for more terms.

To conclude, the book would definitely serve the targeted audience to not only to learn the basics of statistics but also face the exams with confidence as the book has been designed in a self- taught learning method.

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