MEASURES OF DISPERSION

Dispersion is a measure of Scatterdness of values of items about an average. It deals with deviation of individual observations from an average. Any measure of dispersion is a numerical expression or measurement of the extent of deviation of observations from the central value.

Absolute and Relative measures of dispersion. Measures of dispersion may be either absolute or relative. Absolute measures of dispersion are expressed in the units in which values of items are measured. It is not possible to compare the variability of two sets of data which are expressed in different units of measurement. Relative measures are ratios of absolute measure of dispersion to a suitable average. They are free of units of expression.

Desirable properties of a good measure of dispersion.

(Refer to the desirable properties of a good measure of Central tendency)

1. It should be easy to understand

2. It should be simple to calculate

3. It should be based on all the observations.

4. It should be uniquely (rigidly) defined.

5. it should be capable of further algebraic treatment

6. It should not be unduly affected by abnormal items.

7. It should not be affected by sampling fluctuations.