

# **NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**Organized by  
Association of Indian Universities  
Department of Economics, Goa University  
VVN's Shree Damodar College of Commerce and Economics,  
Margao, Goa**

**AT GOA UNIVERSITY, DURING 5-11, 2017  
Coordinators Report**

The Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi, Department of Economics, Goa University, Goa and shree Damodar College, Margao, Goa have jointly organised a National Level Workshop on Methodology in Social Sciences during 5-11 December, 2017.

The response to the Workshop was tremendous and we have received more than 300 applications as on the deadline, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. A total of 60 candidates were selected but finally 52 candidates have attended the workshop. The workshop was truly national in character as the participants represented more than 15 states. The workshop also witnessed the participation of candidates representing 18 subjects. Almost all participants were research scholars who have registered for Ph.D and working towards the completion of their Ph.Ds.



*Inaugural function. Dignitaries on dias from LtoR:  
Prof. P.K. Sudarsan, Prof. Varun Sahni and Dr.  
Amarendra Pani*

The function was inaugurated on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at the hands of the Honourable Vice Chancellor of Goa University, Prof. Varun Sahni. Prof. P.K.Sudarsan, Head of the Department of Economics, Goa

University and Coordinator of the Workshop welcomed the gathering. Dr. Amarendra Pani, Director(Research), Association of Indian Universities (AIU) has introduced the workshop to the participants. The Vice Chancellor in his presidential address highlighted the importance of Social Science Research and also made a presentation on 'Social Science Research Methodology'. Dr.Usha Rai Negi, Assistant Director Research, AIU, was also present at the inaugural function.

The workshop has taken utmost care to bring resource persons of high quality and the resource persons covered wide range of topics highly essential for the Social Science Researchers.

Dr Sony Pellisery from National Law School University, Bangalore, spoke on the topics: Introduction to Social Sciences Research and Qualitative Research in Social Sciences. He said all research begins with a problem. The characteristics of the problem should be identified, then comes knowledge of the problem, resistance to knowledge about the problem and creation of conditions to facilitate knowledge. Social sciences have context dependability which increases complexity and requires a nuanced understanding. Prof. Pellisery also gave an introduction to research design and the designing of qualitative research study.

Dr. Gopakumar, Librarian, Goa University, conducted two practical sessions on e-resources for social sciences research. He introduced the participants to the software Mendeley wherein one can create a free account and get access to literature on the topic of study. He showed the technique of citing while writing and the simplicity of writing references and bibliography using these tools. He also showed the various options available on MS Word which simplifies the task of academic writing using the relevant citation styles.

Dr. Bino Paul, Professor and Dean, TISS, Mumbai, spoke on the topic: Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in Social Science Research. He explained the various types of study that can be undertaken in social sciences: latitudinal, cross section and longitudinal studies.

Talking about the scale, theme and measurability of the variables under study, Prof. Paul divided the participants into groups and asked them to prepare a design using this structure for a study on the issue: Is inequality in society going up? This generated a lot of discussion and debate and then presentations were made.

Dr. Neeraj Hatekar, Professor and Director, Mumbai School of Economics, Mumbai University, conducted four sessions on Quantitative Methods for Social Sciences. With simple illustrations and examples, Prof. Hatekar explained the basics of quantitative techniques for the theory of statistical inference such as sampling, mean, variance, standard deviation, hypothesis testing, normal distribution and tests like one tailed test and two tailed test.

Dr. Nandakumar, Professor, Dept. of Management Studies, Goa University, conducted practical sessions on Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis using SPSS. Using the data base he provided, participants learnt how to do data entry in SPSS, and analyse data for basic hypothesis testing, factor analysis, correlation and regression. Reading material was also provided whereby the students can learn how to use the various options available.

Dr. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Professor, Dept. of Economics, Goa University, conducted two sessions on Secondary Data for Social Science Research in India – Sources and Uses. He spoke about international data bases such as World Bank Open Data which has data of around 190 countries, UN data and Global Tobacco Surveillance System Data (GTSS Data). Important sources of secondary data in India include CMIE, NSSO, IHDS, NFHS and NCRB. Dr. Mukhopadhyay made a case for using secondary data for research whereby even qualitative analysis may be made using secondary data. He also spoke about the limitations of primary data.

Dr. M.P. Tapaswi, Former Librarian, NIO, Goa and Officer on Special Duty, IQAC, Goa University, spoke on Plagiarism – What It Is, How to Avoid It and Penalties in India. He said it is necessary to read several documents, make notes, settle concepts and then write independently. He focused on

citations and how ensuring that works of other researchers have to be cited correctly. He threw light on the difference between references and bibliography and gave practical tips on how to avoid plagiarism.

Dr. Jayaram, Retd. Professor in Sociology, TISS, Mumbai, and Former Director, ISEC, Bangalore, covered the Philosophical Underpinnings of Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to the Study of Social Phenomena and also spoke on the Elements of Academic Writing. Research based knowledge is generated from questions. He spoke about the differences between quantitative and qualitative research, and survey of literature and review of literature. He also spoke about ontology, epistemology, logic and method and research as knowledge transaction. From how to read an article to how to write the text and references, Dr. Jayaram covered all the essentials in writing a thesis using the prescribed style.

Dr. P.K. Sudarsan, Professor and Head, Dept. of Economics, Goa University, introduced to the participants, the use of GRETL for statistical and econometric data analysis. He illustrated how to frame a statistically testable hypothesis and test the same using the data set and develop variables from the questionnaire. He also showed how to import data from Excel to Gretl and how to calculate the test statistic.

All the participants and resource person were accommodated in the University guest houses and the food and refreshments for the participants were arranged in the University Guest House/ University Canteen. The sessions were held in Seminar Hall of old Management building. The participants were given bags, writing pad and also Xerox materials relevant to the programme. The participants have shown lot of enthusiasm in attending sessions and interacting with the resource persons.

The valedictory was function was arranged on 11/12/2017 at 3.30 pm and the Registrar of Goa University was chief guest. Registrar, who himself was a faculty member in the Department of Commerce, Goa University,

highlighted the importance of Social Sciences Research and the workshops of this sort. He emphasised the need for publishing the research work in journals indexed in Scopus, Web of Knowledge, etc. Registrar thanked AIU for sanctioning the workshop and giving an opportunity for the Goa University to conduct a National Level Workshop. He also thanked the Coordinators of the Workshop Professor P.K.Sudarsan, Professor, Department of Economics, Goa University and Dr. Vishal Chari, Assistant Professor, Shree Damodar College of Commerce and Economics, Margao, Goa.

Dr, Amraendra Pani and Dr. Usha Rai Negi visited Goa University, participated in the inaugural function and closely monitored the workshop proceedings. The assistance provided by Dr. Amarendra Pani and Dr. Usha Rai Negi was commendable and has contributed immensely to the success of the Workshop. It was a four months hard work for both the Coordinators in organising this workshop but finally we were very happy to see the Workshop a very successful one. The workshop provided the candidates a very good exposure. This workshop would certainly benefit the participants and we are sure that this workshop would enhance the quality of Social Sciences Research among the participants. The workshop was intended mainly to change the mind set of participants and provide them a greater exposure so that they are encouraged to do quality research. We hope we have succeeded in that endeavour.

We thank the Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi, for choosing Goa University to conduct this workshop

P.K.SUDARSAN  
(VISHAL CHARI)  
(Coordinator)  
(Co-coordinator)