

Six Days Workshop

On

“Research Methodology in Social Sciences: A Qualitative Approach”

20/09/2018-29/09/2018

WORKSHOP PURPOSE: To develop a comprehensive understanding of importance and practical applicability of qualitative methods while doing research.

BACKGROUND: This Workshop was conducted to develop understanding the utility of Qualitative Research Methodology in Social Sciences mainly for research scholars pursuing their PHDs. Scholars from various universities and various fields of Social Sciences like History, Geography, Psychology, Social Work and Literature have participated and experienced research facilitators were invited upon from all over India. The workshop was enriched with Power Point presentations, lectures, discussions, and experiential sharing. The session was highly interactive and participatory to enhance learning & strengthen the understanding of concepts. Topics were discussed by setting examples and both the Speakers and the Scholars contributed their view points on implementation of methods in their subject of research.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE:

- To develop knowledge about various methods used in Qualitative Research.
- To develop understanding of practical applicability of Qualitative Research Methods.
- To develop understanding of analyzing and report finding of qualitative research.

SESSIONS FACILITATORS:

- Prof. G. Kawadia
- Prof. Ajit Phandis
- Dr. D.K. Verma
- Prof. Shailendra Parashar
- Prof. Gyan Prakash
- Prof. Rekha Acharya
- Prof. S.K. Tyagi
- Prof. Y.G. Joshi
- Prof. Y.S. Sisodia

- Prof. Avtar Singh
- Prof. Ashok Mittal
- Prof. T.K. Dalpati
- Prof. Anil Dagat
- Prof. J.C. Upadhyay
- Prof. K. Ahuja

SESSIONS

DAY 1- 24/09/2018

Day 1 started with Inauguration of the Workshop by the Kulgeet of Devi Ahilya University & Maa Saraswati Lamp Lighting Ceremony by the Chief Guests Prof. Ajit Phandis, Prof. Shailendra Parashar, Prof. Gyan Prakash & Head of SOSS, Prof. Rekha Acharya.

First session being as an Inaugural session where Prof. Rekha Acharya briefed about the Workshop and addressed problems faced by researchers while conducting Social Science Researches. She also addressed current topics of research in Social Sciences. Prof. Gyan Prakash also enlightened us about the effectiveness of qualitative research over quantitative research and shared his field experiences in the same. He also said to develop an eye to observe changes in attitude and behavior that takes place in society. Next session on mixed method was facilitated by Prof. Ajit Phandis, who explained the importance and use of both qualitative and quantitative research methodology by a mixed approach. Also there was Prof. Shailendra Parashar, who, by giving example of famous personalities like APJ Abdul Kalam and Stephen Hawking explained the power of human potentials and creativity and to use these potentials and creativity while conducting a research. Prof. D.K. Verma explained about the identifying research problem and data collecting techniques and while sharing his experiences, he gave importance on 'Better Quality Human' as a quality of researcher. Last session was facilitated by Prof. Rekha Acharya, who explained importance and application of Action research in today's world and said that it is an effective technique to bring change in the society.

DAY 2- 25/09/2018

Day 2 started with the Lecture of Prof. S.K. Tyagi, who explained how to develop an understanding of choosing a right statistics for a right scale. He talked about importance of *Variable* in Social Science Researches and to classify them into scales. In the next Session, Prof. Y.G Joshi explained the importance of observation and experience by quoting “concept without percept is empty and percept without concept is blind” in very simple and easy language. With the use of current problems and government programs, he also explained the uses of Survey and Structural Schedule method.

DAY 3- 26/09/2018

Day 3 started with the Lecture of Prof. Y.S Sisodiya, who presented us with the knowledge of developing a good research proposal. He explained every section with presenting an example. He also taught about the implications of such reports. The comprehensive understanding of the use of content analysis method was also developed. The next session facilitated by Prof. Avatar Singh was exciting and interesting as he taught about *Thematic Apperception* and the *Unconscious Biases*, they show in research through an activity. The end session of this day was facilitated by Prof. K. Ahuja on construction of composite index. He explained this method by giving an example of his own conducted research. Day 3 was intense for participants yet they appreciated the techniques learned.

DAY 4- 27/09/2018

Day 4 started with the session of Prof. Ashok Mittal, who with his 40 years of experience, taught us about the importance of use of hypothesis. He also talked about sampling method in brief. Next session by Prof. Gyan Prakash was on the importance of ‘Review of Literature’ in research and what are the sources to find them. The ending session was taken by Prof. Rekha Acharya on Qualitative Data Structure. She also explained Validation and Generalization along with Validation Tests. She also talked about Triangulation Method used in Social Science Researches.

Day 5- 28/09/2018

This day started session of Prof. Ashok Mittal, who gave us the view on Dummy Variables and how they can be effectively used while conducting a research. He explained the concepts by giving various examples. Next session was facilitated by Prof. Tapas Kumar Dalpati on ‘Types of Content Analysis’ and to convert qualitative data into quantitative form. He also explained the concept of focused group discussion method. The concluding session was taken by Prof. Rekha Acharya who enlightened us with the method of Sample Selection and sampling error along with the use of both Parametric and Non-parametric tests.

Day 6- 29/09/2018

The journey of learning ended on this day. The first session of last day was taken by Prof. Upadhyay, who talked about the methods in Historical Research. Participants not from History background were also mesmerized by his knowledge and his way of explaining the method. He even talked about history of Indore in detail. Last session of the workshop was taken by Prof. Anil Dhagat, who spoke on the topic of 'Writing a project report and references. He discussed various reference writing style and a way to find finances for research projects'. The program ended with valedictory by the Head of School of Social Sciences, Prof. Rekha Acharya. The chief guests for the valedictory were Prof. P.K Singh (IIM Indore) and Prof. Mamta Chandrashekhar (Dean, Ambedhkar University, Indore). Prof. Mamta gave her view on the implementation, positivity and sharing of knowledge in one's life and motivated students to go long way to apply these skills in life. Prof. P.K Singh talked about the problem in handling and dealing with the qualitative data by giving various examples from real life. He said a period of boredom also comes in PhD, called as "dark tunnel", where nobody is sure what will come further. He said this period is the most difficult period in student's life, the most challenging part of research which is mandatory to come and once this time has passed success does come after it. And thus, with his wise words he enlightened students about upcoming challenges and how to deal with them. The last day of the Workshop was ended by a thanksgiving by Dr. Varsha Patel (Faculty, SOSS).

SUGGESTIONS:

- Field work could be conducted.
- Lectures to be developed in English and Hindi mixed language.
- Time should be given more to cover each topic.
- Participatory method could be discussed in more detail.
- More lectures to be arranged on scaling techniques and Sampling.
- Such workshops should be organized more frequently & such facilitators should be called again in future.