REPORT

THREE DAY RESEARCH METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP

QUALITY RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION

NOVEMBER 22–24, 2018

Organized by

IQAC, University of Kerala

in association with

ICSSR-SRC

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The Internal Quality Assurance Cell, University of Kerala in association with Indian Council of Social Science Research - Southern Regional Centre (ICSSR-SRC), Hyderabad organized a three day workshop on Research Methodology entitled ***"QUALITY RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION"*** during 22nd November 2018 to 24th November 2018 at the Senate Chamber, Senate House Campus, University of Kerala, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram. The workshop was conducted with the objective to help research scholars in Social Sciences to strengthen their research process so as to make it more focused and purposive. The main themes identified for the workshop were

- Making Research socially relevant
- Imparting quality in the research process

Prof.Gabriel Simon Thattil, Professor of Commerce and Director, IQAC was the workshop coordinator.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by Prof. P.P. Ajayakumar, Hon'ble Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala. He stressed the need to have a Bridge Programme prior to registration for the research process. This would enable them to identify research issues keeping in focus research context and social relevance. The resource persons for the workshop were in charge of different sessions which regard from identification of research problem to report writing and publication of research findings. Each session had a presentation by the expert and an open house where scholars interacted with the experts on issues of concern.

TECHNICAL SESSION I: IDENTIFICATION OF A RESEARCH PROBLEM AND THE RESEARCH DESIGN–PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND ACTION PLAN

Dr. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Professor of Commerce, University of Kerala, in his session, outlined the need to identify a research problem based on societal needs as well as live issues. Researchers need to keep their ears and eyes on contemporary issues. There is a need for extensive homework and substantive thinking before arriving at the research title. He presented two models on identification of the research problem- ballooning and funneling. The need to align objectives and research questions to research problem and ensure forward and backward integration was illustrated.

TECHNICAL SESSION II: DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION (HUMANITIES)

Dr. B. Hariharan, Professor, Institute of English, University of Kerala spoke on systematic data collection methods with focus of humanities. The language used in the collection tool and the target from which data is being elicited is equally important in the collection process. The nature of the data and the purpose of collection need to be kept in focus.

TECHNICAL SESSION III: SOFTWARE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE

Dr. K. Satheesh Kumar, Associate Professor, Dept. of Future Studies, demonstrated the use of databases for data collection, information search and review of literature. He explained the various information search mechanism as well as data analysis tools that can be used for research. Different software, including SPSS and R were introduced. Live search links and associating links were illustrated. There were several queries on how the most relevant publications could be traced in a literature search.

TECHNICAL SESSION IV: DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION (SOCIAL SCIENCE)

Dr. T. Mallikarjunappa, Professor of Business Administration, Mangalore University made a presentation on data collection and interpretation. The focus was on nature of data, its suitability and authenticity which needs to match the research problem. He also spoke of appropriate analysis and interpretation of data so as to give meaningful knowledge. Illustrations and cases were presented.

TECHNICAL SESSION V: REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND RESEARCH GAP AND FORMULATION OF HYPOTHESES

Prof. K. P. Vijayakumar, Former Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kerala made an extensive presentation on review of literature, identification of the research gap and the need for different types of hypotheses. All through the session, there were demonstrations with live cases.

TECHNICAL SESSION VI: PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

Prof. John J. Kattakayam, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Kerala made a presentation on relevance of publication of research findings. Such publications would help in making the research more socially relevant and supportive to change.

TECHNICAL SESSION VII: REPORT WRITING AND RESEARCH OUTCOME

Dr. K. M. Sherrif, Professor, Dept. of English, University of Calicut presented appropriate ways in which report can be written. He cited issues of language presentation styles, creativity in thinking and ability to convincingly convey key skills involved.

TECHNICAL SESSION VIII: PLAGIARSIM

The last session of the workshop was on plagiarism by Prof. M. Channa Basavaiah, Honorary Director, ICSSR-SRC. The origin and evolution of plagiarism as well as different forms in which it exists was explained. The need for ethics was expressively stated. The ways and means to identify plagiarism and the software support available were presented. All forms of research, publications and seminar presentations need to be safe-guarded against the threat of plagiarism.

The workshop concluded with an open house where research scholars interacted with the experts on issues relating to strengthening of the research process. Issues discussed included, preparations before research, multi-disciplinarity in research, linking academic institution with professional bodies and other organizations to ensure connectivity, funding for research, collaborations, exchange programmes and so on.

The workshop Coordinator, Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Director, IQAC and Professor of Commerce, University of Kerala thanked the participants for the involvement and assured further support through similar interactions.

The workshop which was funded by ICSSR-SRC had 76 delegates representing University of Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi University, University of Calicut, Bharatiar University, Periyar University and University of Hyderabad. Altogether eight experts acted as resource persons.

We place on record our sincere thanks to ICSSR-SRC for giving us an opportunity to organize the workshop and for their wholehearted support and involvement in the same.

Compiled by IQAC, University of Kerala.