

## **EMERGING TRENDS IN RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**Mata Sundri College for Women in Collaboration with Mahatma Hansraj Faculty Development Center**

**7-12 October 2019**

**Consolidated Report**

An interdisciplinary, weeklong Faculty Development Programme on *Emerging Trends in Research Methodology* was organized by IQAC Mata Sundri College for Women in collaboration with Mahatma Hansraj Faculty Development Centre from 7-12 October 2019. 75 teachers from all over the country participated in the programme. The aim behind the FDP was to highlight how methodologies and paradigms have changed considerably in the last few years across all disciplines. Research has accompanied humankind since its inception. Holding as constant the intent of enquiry, namely the pursuit of truth, the techniques to uncover the same have altered and evolved over time. The process and product of scientific investigation and enquiry have been shaped by multiple factors; technological leaps and various cultural traditions to name a few. Methodologies and paradigms have changed as have ontology and epistemology. The purpose of the FDP was to show the intersectionalities of seemingly diverse academic fields of knowledge as well as varied research methods and techniques. As a corollary, an initiative to pivot a move directed at evolving methodologies for interdisciplinary enquiry has become imperative. During the FDP, both the Qualitative and Quantitative aspects of research were the focus of attention.

The programme began with the Inaugural Session held on 7<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30 a.m. in Mata Gujri Hall of the college. The session began with the college prayer and was followed by lighting of the lamp by all the dignitaries. Dr. Urmila Devi, Joint Secretary UGC was the chief guest and Prof. K.D. Broota, former head, Department of Psychology was the keynote speaker at this session. The speakers spoke about the importance of research and the points to be kept in mind during the process of research. Further, it was highlighted that research should fulfill certain social objectives. Keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of the programme a session on *Emerging Trends of Research in Social Sciences* was organized where Prof. A.S. Narang, former registrar IGNOU spoke about the emerging areas of research in social sciences like Subaltern Studies and Cultural Studies to name a few. A session on *Interview Techniques* by Prof. Anuradha Bhandari, Punjab University proved to be extremely useful for researchers wishing to collect primary data from the field. The session on *New Ways of Doing History: Oral and Visual Histories since 1945* by Dr. Anirudh Deshpande, Department of History, Delhi University focused on how recent research in the discipline of History had shown the importance of oral and visual narratives which could challenge the traditional ways of studying history.

The first session of the second day, 9-10-2019, of the FDP on *Evidence Based Policy Making: Methodological Issues* by Prof. Amitabh Kundu CSRD, JNU looked at the volatility in India's economic growth and how this could be addressed through focusing on structural factors and continuous adjustment in long term policy making. The next speaker Ms. Aparna Bhatia from the Indian Economic Service looked at research from a different perspective, highlighting how a researcher could use government data for research. The extremely interesting session on

**Ethnomethodology** by Prof. Shalina Mehta, highlighted how conversations could be used as a research methodology with a special focus on research on tribal communities. The session on **Methodological Issues and Trends in the Study of International Relations** by Dr. Saurabh Mishra, Indian Council of World Affairs focused on how various methodologies, Qualitative as well as Quantitative, Discourse Analysis and Grounded Theory could be used while doing research in International Relations.

Keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of the programme, the first session of 10-10-2019 was devoted to **Emerging Trends in Dalit Discourses**. The speaker, Prof. Ajmer Singh Kajal from CIL, JNU spoke about Dalit discourse and Dalit literature and the need to empower the community struggling against a system that had kept them enslaved for centuries. The next speaker, Prof. Anita Ghai from Ambedkar University spoke of a marginalization of a different kind with her focus on **Qualitative Research in Disability Studies**. Prof. Ghai spoke about “emancipatory” research which empowers those who are being researched upon. Moving away from social sciences and literature the next session on **Impact of Recent Methodologies in Microbiome Research: Vision for future**, introduced the participants to the complex world of microbiomes and the latest research being carried out in the field. The next session on **Emerging Trends of Research in Finance**, by Prof. Yamini Agarwal, Director, IIF Business School (AKTU), Dean (Research) Indian Institute of Finance focused on recent trends of research in finance which could look at different areas such as Pension Finance, Crypto Currency, Bilateral and Multilateral Trade to name a few.

Day four, 11-10-2019 began with an extremely interesting session on **Emerging Research Trends in Sanskrit Literature** by Prof Girish Pant, Jamia Milia Islamia University. Prof. Pant spoke about how literature in Sanskrit was not only written in Ancient India, but continues to be produced even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Prof. Chamanlal, the next speaker of the session **Translation, History and Literature** highlighted the importance of research being done in the area of Translation Studies and underscored the interdependence of literature and history. The session on **Qualitative Research Paradigms** by Prof. Anand Prakash, Dean School of Social Sciences looked at changing paradigms of qualitative research in recent times. In the last session on **Methods of Research in Adivasi Literature**, Dr. Ganga Sahay Meena, CIL JNU expressed his views that while researching Adivasi literature one needed to keep preconceived notions at bay. He then went on to highlight various aspects of tribal literature including the importance of oral narratives.

The last day of the FDP, 12-10-2019, began with a session on Emerging Trends in **Population Studies with Special Reference to Disability and Ageing** by Prof. Bhupinder Zutshi, former registrar, JNU. He began by examining “what is research?”, “what is methodology?” and how these can be applied to population studies. The session by Dr. Hemant Dangi, Delhi School of Economics on **Business Research** looked at various dimensions of business research and was extremely interactive. The next speaker of the day Mr. Nitin Raj from KPMG, speaking on **Big Data and Analytics** talked about the relevance of Data Sciences and Analytics in research and how Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning could help in the analysis of Big Data. The FDP came to a close with the Valedictory Session. Mr. Ashok Arora, advocate Supreme Court was the chief guest on the occasion. Prof. Rama, Principal Hansraj College and Chairperson, MHRFDC was also present at the session. Both the speakers spoke about the role of parents and teachers in a world which was becoming fiercely competitive for children. The function came to an end with Prof. Rama and Mr. Arora distributing certificates to the participants.

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