



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS &
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**
PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
(A Central University established by an Act of Parliament
No. 53 of 1985)



Invites Applications
for

Two-Week Capacity Building Workshop for Faculty Members in Social Sciences
(Sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi)

Duration: 20th May to 2nd June 2017

Eligibility: University/College Faculty Members of Social Sciences

Last Date for Application Submission: April 20, 2017

Communication of Selection: April 25, 2017

Confirmation/Registration by the Participants: April 30, 2017

Total Number of Seats: 30

The participation in this workshop is free-of-charge.

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APPLICATIONS OF QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH

I. INTRODUCTION

It is well known that achieving excellence in higher education has been the most daunting of all the challenges faced by policymakers in India. Of several policies mooted and implemented by the central government to reform the higher education sector, one major change introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in the wake of the Sixth Pay Commission in 2009 for faculty in colleges and universities is the adoption of Academic Performance Indicator (API) under the Performance Based Appraisal System (PBAS). The stated objective of the system is to regulate promotions of incumbent teachers as well as the recruitment of new teachers based on the teacher academic performance. In addition, the system is believed to encourage, motivate, and incentivise teachers in their academic pursuits, and at the same time ward off biases and favouritism in the process of promotion under the career advancement scheme and direct recruitment. However, the faculty members in the social sciences are not ready to adopt this change in its true spirit.

The gap between belief and ground reality has resulted into a proliferation of unacceptable academic fraud across the country. For example, an increase in cases of plagiarism, false data and results, multiple submissions, emergence of flood of poor-quality dubious paid journals and conferences presenting themselves as peer-reviewed, crowd of just API score seekers in technical seminars, etc. can be seen everywhere in the present academic atmosphere. These undue practices have caused threats to the quality and integrity of the social sciences in India. On one hand the government has failed to attract, select and retain talented and quality manpower in the teaching profession and introducing unrespectable and reluctant radicals on the other. Essentially, this phenomenon is ramping up the noise and drowning out the signal of quality scientific research and teaching. It is widely accepted that in pursuit of the excellence in higher education the capacity building programmes can play a central role. Against this backdrop, it is considered imperative that social scientists are made aware of standardized research methods, techniques and tools. In general, more attention needs to be paid to develop research and teaching capacity in social sciences faculty members. This can be best achieved by conducting short-term courses and training workshops for university and college level teachers.

The capacity building workshop has been designed to train the teachers in the social sciences to deal with basic research issues. It is to enable the faculty members to learn the important tools and methods of social sciences research. The workshop is aimed at answering the questions such as: (1) How the research proposal for competitive grant can be designed and executed? (2) What is an appropriate research tool? (3) How to convert the completed research (e.g., PhD thesis and project report) into publishable material of high quality in the form of journal articles/books? (4) How to select a standard journal for dissemination of the research findings? (5) How to deal with the referees' comments? (6) How to prevent plagiarism? In sum, the

workshop will be helpful to faculty members of all social sciences of the state/central universities and colleges who do not have much exposure in good quality research and teaching.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The chief aim of the workshop is to enable the faculty members for the use of appropriate techniques in research in social sciences. Specifically, the objectives are to:

1. Facilitate the understanding of the application of appropriate quantitative techniques in various types of research in social sciences.
2. Enhance skills of preparing an appropriate research design.
3. Enhance the awareness for writing a good quality research paper for publication and develop the capacity for planning and writing a book.
4. Update the skill for writing competitive grant proposals and provide ideas about emerging researchable areas.
5. Provide through exposure to use of PASW, STATA and E-Views for economic analysis.

III. FOCUS

As mentioned above, the focus of the workshop will be on applications of quantitative techniques in research in social sciences. It is aimed at providing knowledge of essential tools and techniques through classroom exercises with practical data. The emphasis will be on providing knowledge of the operation of computer software packages so that the teachers can link classroom teaching with research and self-generated new knowledge.

IV. SUB-THEMES FOR WORKSHOP

The training workshop would broadly focus on:

- Meaning and Aspects of Research
- Research Design
- Survey Method and Sampling
- Basic Quantitative Analysis
- Analysis of Data
- Politics of Research
- Structure of Research Proposal
- Quantitative Research
- Ethics in Academic Writing
- Elements of Academic Writing
- Selection of Journal
- Submission of Research Paper
- Publication Process
- Dealing with Proof

V. PEDAGOGY

The pedagogy for the workshop consists of a combination of expert lectures, interactive sessions and hands on quantitative methods of research through computer software packages like Microsoft Excel, PASW, E-Views, and STATA, etc.

The broad overview of course module:

First week will deal with:

1. Formulating the research proposal
2. Research design

Methodology of social science research

Second week will focus on academic writing:

1. Paper for journals
2. Books
3. Writing project reports
4. Paper clinic (actual papers will be taken-up for discussion)

VI. CANDIDATES SELECTION FOR WORKSHOP

The selection of candidates will be finalized as per the ICSSR guidelines. The applications will be scrutinized on the basis of academic qualifications, quality of publications and the 200-words write up sent by the applicants. Decision of the Selection Committee in this regard will be final. Those who are interested to attend the workshop must submit their application (hardcopy) in the prescribed format (enclosed) to: Dr. P. Lazarus Samraj, The Director, ICSSR CBP, Department of Politics and International Studies, Pondicherry University, Puducherry 605014, and at the following e-mail address: icssrcbp2017@gmail.com latest by 20th April, 2017. Only completely filled applications, duly signed and forwarded through proper channel, will be accepted. **Interested Candidates are suggested to send the scanned advanced copy at the earliest.**

VII. APPLICATION REQUIREMENT

1. A short CV explaining all academic details with work experience and publication details.
2. A 200 words write up on how research engagement will influence his/her teaching and engagement with the students

VIII. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Out-station participants will be paid TA, (third AC on the submission of the tickets as per the University rules) and lodging and boarding will be provided at free-of-charge.

