

3 DAY WORKSHOP ON 'RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES'

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WORK STUDIES, DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY

Centre for Social Work Studies, Dibrugarh University organised a 3-day workshop on 'Research Methodology in Social Sciences' from the 25th to the 27th of May, 2022 for its 4th semester students, in the Centre for Social Work Studies, Dibrugarh University. The workshop hosted a number of esteemed resource persons including professors from Dibrugarh University as well as an expert working in the field of action-based research. The workshop covered a number of topics crucial in the field of research namely Research Design, Ethics and Politics in Social Research, Epistemology and Ontology, Bibliographic Database and Research Metrics, Sampling in Qualitative Research and Data Analysis. The workshop had the objective to familiarize the participants with the aforementioned topics. The workshop also intended to help the participants grasp an in-depth understanding of these topics as these are fundamental for carrying out research in social sciences.

The workshop began with an inaugural speech by Dr. Nitul Kr. Gogoi, Chairperson, Centre for Social Work Studies, Dibrugarh University. Dr. Nitul Kr. Gogoi shed light on the importance of research and also welcomed the 1st speaker of the session, Arfan Hussain, Vice President cum Director, Socio Educational Welfare Association (SEWA). Mr. Hussain shared with the participants the idea and scope of research in sync with his field experiences. He imparted his knowledge on various research areas such as Program Identification and Design, Data Collection, Data Analysis and conducting assessments along with



the tools for assessment. Mr. Hussain also shared with the participants his personal experiences using various research tools and methods in conducting action-based research projects. He also shed light on the particulars of research proposals as well as the dynamics of an effective research proposal. His valuable words were a source of motivation and encouragement for the participants.

The Session was followed by a talk on 'Ethics and Politics in Social Research' by Dr. Obja Borah Hazarika, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Sciences. Dr. Hazarika spoke on several unethical practices that a researcher may exercise, knowingly or unknowingly while conducting research. She stressed on the importance of ethics in research and the perils of unethical research practises. Several examples of past unethical experiments were sprinkled in within her talk which made the session informative as well as interesting for the participants.



The Evening Session was taken over by Dr. Bikash Deka, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Dibrugarh University. He imparted his knowledge on the various approaches that one may adopt while carrying out social researches. Philosophical aspects of social research were highlighted in his talk. Dr. Deka also spoke on the epistemological and ontological aspects of social research.

On the 26th of May, the Morning Session was started off by Dr. Obja Borah Hazarika at 10 AM. Her session covered the topics of Epistemology and Ontology, Plagiarism in Research and the Importance of Literature Review. In order to make the session comprehensible, Dr. Hazarika cited various examples relevant to these topics. Her talk highlighted the two vital epistemological considerations in research, positivism and interpretivism. Stressing upon theory in research, she highlighted the two types of researches i.e. deductive and inductive. The session concluded with a question-answer round.



The Afternoon Session was carried forward by Dr. Surajit Borkotokey, Professor, Department of Mathematics. Dr. Borkotokey in his session shared with the participants the notion of Bibliographic Database and Research Metrics and how can it be used while conducting a research. His talk comprised of key ways of understanding if a topic is relevant, some techniques to sort them out, the novelty one should have while choosing a topic, and how popular can the outcome of a research be. Professor Borkotokey also shed light on the gravity of citing references while doing research.

On 27th May, the Morning Session of the workshop started with a felicitation of the speaker, Ms. Kuheli Das, Assistant professor, Department of Sociology. Ms. Kuheli delivered her lecture on Sampling in Qualitative Research. She clarified the topics such as general considerations of sampling in qualitative research, validity in qualitative research, methods and tools of data collection, etc, in a manner that was apprehensive to the participants. She also sprayed a few of her personal experiences of data collection procedures which made the session captivating for the participants. Lastly, the session was concluded with a question and answer round.



The Afternoon Session was continued by Ms. Binny Borkha Baruah, Assistant professor, Centre for Studies in Applied Psychology. Her topic of discussion was 'Data Analysis in Quantitative Research'. She talked about the different manners in which data can be organised such as- statistical tables, rank order, frequency distribution and so on. She also shared with the participants various tools of data representation in research like pie charts, histograms, bar graphs, etc. Towards the end, she concluded her session by shedding light on testing hypothesis and writing research reports.

At the start of each session, the honorable speakers were welcomed with a token of gratitude and were offered with a certificate of appreciation in the end. The Centre For Social Work Studies extends its gratitude to Prof. L. K. Nath , Vice Chancellor i/c, Dibrugarh University, Prof. Jiten Hazarika, Registrar, Dibrugarh University, Prof. Nitul Kumar Gogoi, Chairperson, Centre For Social Work Studies, Dibrugarh University. The coordinator of the event was Mrs. Pranjuri Goswami, Assistant Professor, CSWS. Dr. Monuj Dutta, Dr. Ansai Bathou Basumatary, Mrs. Jharna Burhagohain, Ms. Sujata Bori activitely helped in the event. The workshop was a grand success and the information, knowledge and experiences shared during this workshop is sure to be of utmost help to the participants in the field of research.