

Summary Program Report of Two-Week Training Program on Research Design for
Faculty Members at Dev Sanskriti University Haridwar (DSVV)
12-27 April 2009, Venue: Committee Hall, DSVV, Haridwar

A) Program Opening and Faculty Meeting, 12 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Two-Week Training Program on Research Design has formally started with the opening and grand faculty meeting on 12 April 2009 at DSVV Committee hall in the chairmanship of Prof. S. P. Mishra, Vice Chancellor in the august gathering of 32 pre-registered faculty members and researchers of DSVV and some guests including the facilitator Dr. Thaneswor Gautam, Social Science Research Foundation, Kathmandu. The training is designed for the capacity building of the faculty members that is required for future inter-disciplinary and collaborative research in DSVV to comprehend the hidden treasure of eastern society with theoretical, applied, and action research. Dr. Gautam facilitated the session for twenty minutes with some slide presentation, opinion collection using meta-cards, and some open interactions. Finally the session chair Dr. Mishra has made some very useful remarks to value-add in the program planning.

B) 13 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Research Philosophy and Approaches, Paradigm Shift in Research Methodology with facilitation approach using Slide presentation, Individual opinion pooling, Brainstorming, Video clip, Tips, and Open interactions.

Resource person highlighted the theme of the day as “Research Philosophy and Approaches; Paradigm Shift in Research Methodology”. Some of the major contents covered in the session were the eastern and western philosophies and their impact in ontology and epistemology, paradigm shift in research methodology in globalized and high-tech context that has affected every researcher’s career. Besides, some attempts were made to find out the core competence of South Asian researchers and their limitations to grasp the opportunity and face the threat.

C) 14 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Understanding Theory, Concept, Construct, Variables, and Items in Multi-disciplinary Research with facilitation approach of Mapping, Slide presentation, Role Play, Tips, and Participants’ Presentation.

The session covered General Principles, Meta Theory, Theory, Concept & Construct, Variables & Parameters, Instruments, Measurement Scales & Items, and Multidisciplinary-Interdisciplinary View. Furthermore, practicum and participants’ presentation were the main attraction of the session. Principles were explained in Ideology and philosophy guided principles, common sense principles, and scientific principles linking the presentation with small video clip of natural principle. Then, the meaning of the science was explored in all domains as spiritual, social, and natural worlds. The theory was defined and discussed how it can be operationalized. Resource person all participants were divided in five groups and engaged in the theory mapping process.

D) 15 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Multi-Method and Mixed-Method Research Approaches with facilitation approach of Interactive lecture & presentation, Quiz, Tips, and Appreciative inquiry.

The session focused on the need of interdisciplinary, fundamental, theoretical, and/or basic research for theory building process; search of superordinate goal of research based teaching learning, important role of scientists working in eastern studies; highlights of research that followed multi-methods and mix-method approaches; and appreciative inquiry among the participants to learn for possible theory building research in the eastern studies including Yoga. The expectation of the resource person for collaborative research initiatives was exposed and he admired the scope and responsibility of indigenous researchers to make more meaningful contributions in the knowledge economy. He presented the developmental and mixed-method design and encouraged participants to learn required terminologies, advanced approaches and tools, follow interdisciplinary approach, and search the theory building possibilities in the areas like ‘Yogic Interventions’.

E) 16 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Career Planning and Identifying Research Issues in Interdisciplinary Research with facilitation approach of Interactive lecture, presentation, Tips, and Exercises.

The session was designed to explore the participants' goal and their areas of interest in research. The resource person engaged participants in an exercise of outlining each participant's cognitive frame of their research design in the flash cards in 'social representation' approach to understand the knowledge and perception of research design among the DSVV research fellows. A PhD synopsis was taken as the case for necessary discussions. The preference was given in selecting the research topic in interdisciplinary domains. The proper use of the scientific words and their systematic conceptual clarity was also found the essence of such research. Finally, the resource person motivated participants to dig out central thesis of the research with the case example of a topic as 'Yogic Intervention and general well-being'. Once a researcher is able to views the theoretical skeleton then only can justify that properly in the current discourse. Finally, the discussion identified that the process of designing and administering the research, composing the worthy discussions with findings, and fitting them into the guidelines of the journals can make the publication possible.

F) 17 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Literature Review with Referencing-Citation with facilitation approach of Presentation, Exercises, Learning Games, Using computer application, and Tips.

Overall program highlights and its content coverage were revisited to make participants clear on the objective of two-week package. Based on the qualitative information generated in the earlier day, resource person have produced one page separate report on 'social representation' of research design among the participants and reported that majority of the topics were found ethnocentric lacking the conceptual clarity but high possibilities of fundamental research design were found possible in some ongoing research topics. Most of the researchers had expressed their career vision as to contribute the best possible in cultural knowledge. However, the participants had some myths on research design as they understood it as some specific tools and analytical aspects of the research rather than justifying approaches, discourses, and domains. Further, they were also found poor in time and resource plan, research process, and scientific literature review. Major issues covered in the session were how to value add in the existing knowledge through reading, writing, and research. The accessing the literature and its proper reading-comprehension can lead the researchers in art of writing with scientific referencing-citation. Some of the strategies for effective research design for PhD research were discussed.

G) 18 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Writing the Review Paper and Peer-Review with facilitation approach of Interactive lecture, Paragraph writing, Critical peer-review and appreciation, *Sankirtan*, Practicum, and Assignments.

Resource person highlighted three major focus of the session as to understand the styles of writing, demonstrate the varieties of publications in article forms, and orient participants in paragraph writing and review process. Highlighting the importance of written communication, resource person motivated participants for the paper publication so that effective knowledge transfer to others including future generation could be possible. Researchers should understand the styles of academic and professional writings. Reading-comprehension exercise followed by one paragraph writing and peer-review by each participant was important for the orientation of the researchers in listening, reading, and comprehension skills. Some of the basics of peer review system were meaningfully concluded. An additional session was designed for variable design and data tabulation using SPSS package in the evening.

H) 20 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Proposal Writing Skill with facilitation approach of Interactive lecture, Questionnaire answer, Demonstration, and tips for efficacy building.

The session covered three major areas as the steps of research and proposal design, general types of proposals, and some demonstration of model proposals with the tips in proposal design. Some discussions were also made on the assignments of the previous session. A brief online facilitation with the web-based demonstration to design the conceptual framework was meaningful to value-add of the participants' assignment. Some more discussions were made on possibilities of small research fellowship in the universities for faculty empowerment, research awards by University Grants Commission and large scale collaborative research with the involvement of inter-disciplinary research team. Participants provoked resource person to differentiate

research issues and title of the research, plan and process of the research, and some basics of pedagogy-andragogy in the question-answer session. Art of using facilitation aids, understanding the mode of deliveries, and basic differences between training, workshop, symposium, seminar, and conferences were discussed. Finally, the resource person emphasized on literature review to justify the theme of the research and selected research issues, specify the objectives, and adopt the suitable research design. Besides, an additional session on SPSS application was facilitated in the evening to train the participants in descriptive tools of statistical analyses.

I) 21 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Research Design with facilitation approach of Interactive lecture, Exercises, Scanning-library materials, and Question answer.

It was one of the most comprehensive sessions, which covered some interconnectivity of basic research design, methodological design, and analytical design with some challenges and future strategies. Resource person showed the alternative approaches followed in a research determines research question, data collection approach, data analysis techniques, and the purpose of the research. He presented a mix-method research to exemplify the research design and its importance. The research design affects whole cycle of the research starting from planning to outcomes justifying how the research design practices generally have long term impact in the knowledge economy. The research design in social science discipline is very close to planning the research and making a good research proposal. The basic research design is a set of topic, statement of problems, and conceptual framework that is further operationalized in objectives, methodology, plans and processes. Therefore, the resource person insisted for proper understanding of the theory for research design with some ideas on research proposal in any academic or funded research. The resource person also animated the session to empower the participants in scanning and skimming of library materials for self-learning. An additional session designed in the evening focused on the interdisciplinary data management in quantitative and qualitative research.

J) 22 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Methodological Issues with Interactive lecture, Participants Presentation, Scanning-library materials, Evaluation and Question answer.

The session focused on the meaning of methodology, alternative approaches of methodology, determinants of methodology, example of writing methodology, participants' presentation on methodology, and general discussions for further learning. Research methodology is a way of systematically solving the research problems; therefore it is a science of explaining how the research is done. Research methodology can be viewed in varieties of approaches. After the presentation he assessed the participants' level of understanding with conclusion of the methodological issues. The limitations of the research delimits researchers' outcome that is why the South Asian researchers have made less contribution in theory building research. Limited publications of South Asian researchers can be cause of lack of previous theories that fit with the researcher's ideology and value systems. The Resource person presented a model of writing the research methodology part. The model comprised some paragraphs on research design, research methodology with the specific population and sample/subjects, nature of sample/subjects, instruments, data generation techniques, data tabulation, software used, analytical tools, and procedures followed.

K) 23 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Analytical Design with Presentation, Demonstrations, Problem Solving, Tips, and Practicum.

The session comprised the concept of analytical design, links of variables-scales-and measurements, nature of data and their limitations, and using SPSS for data management and analysis. Analytical design is the plan for data analysis. The understanding the relationships among variables is the major job in analytical design. It is a task of determining the associations or differences among variables to describe, differentiate, relate, or group. Three levels of data analysis were prescribed in univariate, bivariate, and multi-variate analytical options. Some of the analytical softwares that are being used are identified as LISREL, EQS, MLWIN, AMOS, MINITAB, SAS, STATS, EXCEL and SPSS. Resource person confined his demonstration on Statistical Package for the Social Sciences' (SPSS-11.5) and explained its applicability in social science research. Such softwares have made the research methodology more accessible and understandable. Participants were engaged in the operation of SPSS starting from the variable defining and coding, data entry, and some basic analysis. Besides, few participants engaged on an hour long scientific literature writing skill session at the evening.

L) 24 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Designing Instruments and Administering with Presentation, Group Works, and Facilitation

The session focused in the facilitation of archival research with content analysis, field research with observation, survey research using varieties of scale items, and practical session on designing and administering data generation instruments. Process of instrument design was justified in a chain that starts from research design followed by methodological design and question design. Effective questionnaire items are simple, brief, specific, and logical having single theme in every item. Resource person highlighted the issue of measurement reliability and validity that is very important in publishing the papers. The reliability is necessary in order to have a valid measure but it can not guarantee that a measure is the best option to understand the social reality. Participants were engaged in group works of instrument design and administering dividing them in four groups. Participants actively participated in instrument designing and administering in workshop approach. The resource person motivated participants to use simple and most desired item design in the instruments.

M) 25 April 2009, 07.00 to 10.00 Hour.

Session on: Quantitative and Qualitative Data Generation with presentation, examples, question-answer, video-clips, interactive discussions, and question-answer.

The session was planned for the necessary discussions on sources and data generation techniques in qualitative-quantitative research designs, holistic views to use both paradigms in theory building research, and some orientations in qualitative data analysis. Basic differences between qualitative and quantitative research designs were discussed with a comprehensive list of features. Resource person had put special focus on qualitative data gathering techniques and the commonly used instruments in qualitative data generation using short questionnaire/schedule, Interview, participation-observation, listening-reading, audio-visuals, and action research and experience. Some basic differences among four types of interviews and some tips of interviewing were described with lively examples. An intensive case example of qualitative research in leadership theory was presented. Before engaging into the content analysis one has to understand the theoretical frame and should read indigenous literature so that some cross-cultural work could be made in archival research using the content analysis to uncover the hidden treasure of knowledge in eastern studies. Besides, series of audio-visual clips were played to justify how '*Homa Therapy*' technique has become an effective means of balancing eco-system and natural harmony. Finally, resource person focused into the commonly used steps in field research design to motivate participants in qualitative research design.

N) 26 April 2009, 14.30 to 17.00 Hour.

Session on: Data Tabulation, and Analysis Using Computer Applications with participants' presentation, facilitation, software demonstrations, and question-answer.

The session covered multiple aspects as program evaluation in participants' perspective, qualitative-quantitative data management, presentation and interpretation of data, revisiting the review writing, and use of computer technology in research. Participants' group presentation was found interesting as they reported two-week training program on research design having successful outcomes. Their high self-confidence, improved presentation skills, and sense of deep satisfaction showed relative behavioral change and effective upshot of the program. The resource person presented dynamics of coding and analysis in Excel, SPSS, Biblist softwares for coding and data entry and he added how very simple skills can make big differences if one can use even the common applications as MS Word and Power-Point applications. He presented some ideas on literature review and writing. Finally, the research based and participant centric teaching-learning process was highlighted in interactive lecture approach. Participants were encouraged for open interactions in question-answer session. The interaction identified some of the possibilities of team building in future collaborative research, joint paper publications of resource person with faculty members of DSVV, research students' mobilization in piece based research and integrate meaningfully by DSVV faculty members.