



Gujarat Technological University School of Management Studies (GSMS)

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REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN THE 10-DAY RESEARCH METHODOLOGY COURSE (RMC) FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS AT SPIESR



Organized by: Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research (SPIESR),
Ahmedabad

Sponsored by: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi

Dates: April 15 – April 24, 2025



1. Introduction

I had the opportunity to participate in the prestigious 10-Day Research Methodology Course (RMC) organized by the Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research (SPIESR), Ahmedabad, from April 15 to 24, 2025. The program was sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, and aimed at enhancing research competence among MPhil, PhD, and Post-Doctoral researchers in the social sciences.

This course served as a critical academic initiative to familiarize emerging scholars like myself with advanced tools, techniques, and theoretical frameworks essential for rigorous and policy-relevant research in the social sciences.

2. About the Host Institute

SPIESR is one of India's leading social science research institutions. It has played a pivotal role in generating meaningful research across various domains including economics, education, health, human development, agriculture, and environment. The institute is recognized for its empirical and policy-driven studies and is funded by ICSSR and the Government of Gujarat.

3. Structure and Curriculum

The course was structured into theoretical and practical modules. It included lectures, hands-on sessions, fieldwork exposure, and software training. Key elements of the curriculum included:

- **Foundations of Research:** Understanding epistemology, research ethics, and the role of theory in social science.
- **Formulating Research Problems and Hypotheses:** Techniques to craft relevant, precise research questions and testable hypotheses.
- **Research Design and Sampling Methods:** Various qualitative and quantitative designs and sampling strategies were explored.
- **Data Collection Methods:** Surveys, interviews, focus groups, and ethnographic tools were discussed.

- **Quantitative Data Analysis:** Practical sessions on SPSS helped in data coding, descriptive statistics, and inferential techniques.
- **Qualitative Methods:** Use of thematic and content analysis, along with NVivo demonstrations.
- **Writing Research Proposals and Reports:** Guidance on academic writing, referencing styles, and publication strategies.

Each day concluded with reflective discussions, and several sessions were interactive, allowing participants to present their ongoing research for feedback.

4. Key Learnings and Outcomes

Participation in the RMC was a transformative experience. Some of the major takeaways include:

- **Enhanced Methodological Knowledge:** I gained a nuanced understanding of mixed-methods approaches and advanced analytical tools.
- **Practical Skills:** Through SPSS workshops and field-based assignments, I improved my competence in handling both primary and secondary data.
- **Peer Interaction:** The diverse group of scholars from across India created a vibrant intellectual environment. Peer learning and networking were invaluable.
- **Expert Guidance:** Lectures by eminent professors and researchers provided fresh perspectives on research impact and interdisciplinary approaches.

5. On-Field Assignment – Impact of Metro on Local Transport Services

As part of our practical exposure, we conducted a field-based research project titled *"Impact of Metro on Local Transport Service Providers: A Case Study of Auto Rickshaw Drivers in Ahmedabad."* This involved designing a questionnaire, conducting interviews with over 40 auto-rickshaw drivers around metro stations, and collecting qualitative and quantitative data regarding their income trends, passenger footfall, and service adaptability post the introduction of the metro. The data was analyzed using basic statistical tools and visualized through graphs, followed by a group presentation

where we interpreted the socio-economic implications of the metro. This real-life assignment helped bridge theory and application, offering firsthand experience in managing field research dynamics.

6. Reflections and Relevance to My Research

This training was especially beneficial for refining the methodology section of my doctoral research. The exposure to advanced research tools has equipped me to revise my data collection and analysis plans. I am now better prepared to address methodological challenges in my study and contribute meaningfully to the academic discourse in my field.

The insights gained have also motivated me to consider interdisciplinary linkages and policy implications more explicitly in my work, aligning with the broader objectives of ICSSR to encourage research that informs governance and development.

7. Conclusion

I sincerely thank SPIESR and ICSSR for organizing this impactful course and for providing full support in terms of accommodation, travel reimbursement, and an inclusive academic environment. I am confident that the skills acquired through this program will significantly enhance the quality and impact of my doctoral research. I also extend my gratitude to my university for permitting and encouraging my participation in such scholarly initiatives.

