

ICSSR Sponsored

Ten Days Research Methodology Workshop for Doctoral Scholars

(27th November - 6th December 2019)

Theme of the Workshop: *Researching Disadvantaged Status in India*

‘Disadvantaged’ is a relative and conspicuous feature of any society since time immemorial highlighting prejudice (towards certain aspects) in the social framework. There are twofold motives behind such a behavior, one establishing perpetual dominance (through sociological ascriptions for othering) and the other concurrent effect is relative concentration of gainful returns for their capabilities. Though such phenomenon is ever-existing, its analysis holds significance largely when done in temporal as well as spatial context due to dynamism of political regime and related social implications. ‘Disadvantaged’ as an analytical category is relatively new concept in academic research and has been acknowledged globally especially by agencies like United Nations. The reason for its exploration and inclusion stems from need of traverse towards sustainable development which is ideally in sync with equity. As research is a logical and scientific exercise to establish any existing reality as a fact, inclusion of such a concept will help in identification of areas demanding equitable measures/reforms towards prejudice and disempowerment.

Having said this, it’s crucial to mention aspects which are generally in cultures across the globe deemed as a measure to distinguish and push towards subordinate and marginalized status. Interestingly, most of these are primordial including race, gender, and religion although there are categories like disability which can be primordial as well as in those incidents that happened thereafter. However, notional ascriptions are culture specific and vary in degree from one country to the other.

Indian social milieu presents a peculiar system of stratification where apart from all the above given categories, the category of caste is also appended to distinguish on hierarchical lines. Therefore, broad categories which have had subject to differential treatment comprises of caste, tribe, gender, religion, and physical/mental disability. In order to have progressive movement towards social cohesion and holistic development, researching the disadvantaged status and its varied dimensions in (our) Indian context is important. It may add richness in comprehension apart from enriching (academic) research on Indian society including multi-ethnic perspectives from the north-eastern region.

With an idea of revealing nuanced understanding of given social framework from differing perspectives among the research scholars, a ten-day research methodology course on specific theme of disadvantaged status in India is conceived and proposed. Unlike other research methodology workshops being conducted across the institutions of our country, this workshop is

focused on a theme with specific reference to north-eastern aspects and therefore is unique. This workshop will be an attempt to orient/hone research aptitude among the scholars working in this/similar area.

Objectives of the workshop:

The concept of ‘disadvantaged’ albeit new is well acknowledged globally to comprehend social as well as economic stratification in the context. As a result, numerous researches on such an idea are being carried out across the disciplines of social sciences. Therefore, it becomes imperative for scholars to become oriented towards ontology, epistemology, and methodology of doing research on disadvantaged status in India (perspectives from caste, tribe, religion, gender, religious minorities, and persons with disability). The proposed research methodology workshop will act as a facilitator in the exercise of exposing scholars towards conduct of research pertaining to disadvantaged status in the country. Considering this the broad objectives of the workshop are conceived as:

- a) To facilitate scholars in their exploration of disadvantaged status in India
- b) To provide exposure towards ontology, epistemology and methodology of doing research on disadvantaged status in social sciences
- c) To orient scholars towards utilization of relevant concepts related to study caste, tribe, gender, religious minorities, and persons with disability
- d) Disseminating information about sole/blended usage and analysis of quantitative and qualitative information/data
- e) Exposing scholars to the field – doing empirical research
- f) To enable scholars in their report writing – reviewing and writing the results and analysis.

Broad Themes:

As the research methodology workshop is an exercise with a limited time of ten days, the proposed workshop is designed in a way to benefit scholars of social sciences. In order to maximize benefits in a given time frame, broad themes are identified which can be states as:

- a) Comprehending disadvantaged status in Indian context
 - Nature of the concept in social sciences
- b) Ontology, epistemology and methodology of researching disadvantaged status in India
- c) Quantitative or qualitative? – choice of methods
- d) Caste, tribe, gender, minorities, and persons with disability in social sciences
- e) Analyzing data – utilization of available quantitative/qualitative tools
- f) Presenting collected information
 - Publication/report writing
 - Referencing
 - Copyright/plagiarism

Hands on training – exposure through field visit

Who Should Participate?

The objectives of the workshop make its utility quite emphatic, and therefore it's primarily meant to strengthen the researches pertaining to areas of disadvantaged status in India, viz. issues of caste, gender, tribe, and minority, in social sciences. Thus, all the registered doctoral scholars who are involved in any of the above-mentioned areas should feel encouraged to apply with a brief write up/synopsis about their research and motive of attending the workshop in about 500 to 800 words before 11th November 2019. The maximum intake of scholars for the workshop shall be 20 which include 10 outstation candidates from north-eastern region. It may be noted down categorically that those who have attended any similar workshops which were sponsored by ICSSR should refrain themselves from applying. Further, it may also be noted down that those who are employed as a regular employee should apply along with a proper forwarding from an appropriate authority.

Application Fee and Procedure:

There is no application fee for the course, and thus all the eligible and interested scholars may apply through scanned copy of filled application form and a brief write up before 11th Nov. 2019, 05:00 pm. The shortlisted candidates will be notified on 14th Nov. 2019. All the outstation candidates shall be provided free of cost food along with boarding and lodging (on twin sharing basis) on the campus. Travelling allowances (TA) is payable only for the sleeper class travel by

railways or normal bus fare on the production of original tickets. The reimbursement of the fare shall be as per ICSSR rules and guidelines.

About the Hosting Institution:

Tezpur University is one of the prestigious institutes of the country with NAAC A grade rating, and is located in cultural city of Tezpur, Assam. The University is well connected through road, rail, and airways.

This workshop on researching disadvantaged status in india is being conducted by Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Tezpur University, Assam in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi. Dr. Ambedkar Chair is a newly established chair in Tezpur University, and is primarily involved in furthering ideas and philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar through different mechanism. This chair is closely associated with Department of Sociology and is functional along with all other departments in the Humanities & Social Sciences Building of Tezpur University, Assam.

Important Dates:

Last date for Applying: 11th November 2019

Date of Notification for the selected Candidates via email: 14th November 2019

Date of Commencement of the Ten Days Course: 27th November 2019

For application kindly enclose (scanned) copy of:

- a. Filled application form
- b. Category certificate
- c. Brief synopsis of your research
- d. Motive of attending the workshop

Kindly email your application (with necessary enclosures) to ambedkarchairtu@gmail.com

Whom to Contact for any information/clarification?

<p>1) Prof. K.Kikhi Chair Professor Dr. Ambedkar Chair Tezpur University Assam-784028 Email: kedithejakikhi@yahoo.co.in Mob: 8011546650</p>	<p>2) Dr. D.R.Gautam Research Officer Dr. Ambedkar Chair Tezpur University Assam-784028 Email: dharmagautam@gmail.com Mob: 8447204528</p>
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ICSSR Sponsored Research Methodology Workshop on *Researching Disadvantaged Status in India*
Organized by Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Tezpur University, Assam

Application Form

- 1) Name (in block letters):
- 2) Category (SC/ST/OBC/Minority/General/PH) (Please attach scanned copy of the certificate):
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- 3) Gender (Male/Female/Third Gender):
- 4) Name of the Research Degree you are enrolled in (along with the Discipline):
- 5) Designation:
- 6) Email ID:
- 7) Mobile:
- 8) Topic of Doctoral Thesis (Kindly enclose a brief synopsis):
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- 9) Date of Registration:
- 10) University/Institute:
- 11) Name & Designation of the Supervisor:
- 12) Stage of Doctoral Work:
- 13) Address for Communication:
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- 14) Did you attend any similar course/workshop sponsored by ICSSR? If Yes, give details:
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- 15) Recommendation by the supervisor (Yes/No):
- 16) Forwarding by the employer (in case you are employed)(Yes/NA):
- 17) Accommodation Required (Yes/No):
- 18) Dates for which accommodation is needed:

Place:

Date:

(Signature of the Applicant)

Forwarded/Recommended by the Supervisor/HOD:

(Name & Signature of the Research Supervisor with seal)