

ICSSR Sponsored

Seven Days Research Methodology Workshop for Doctoral Scholars from
19th March to 26th March 2018

Theme of the Workshop: *Researching Subalternity in Social Sciences and Humanities*

Concept of the Workshop:

Primary objective of any research is to establish a pre-existing reality as a (probable) fact with the help of rigorous scientific method. In this way philosophical understanding of a reality (ontology), is it knowable (epistemology), and how it could be known (methodology) becomes most crucial. Subalternity is relatively a new concept in social science research as well as in general parlance. Though the subaltern research is relatively a new area in social research, it has gained prominence in the post-modern world thanks to the emergence of different facets of post structural research on the global horizon. There have been approaches like feminism, queer theory, so on and forth which added dynamism towards the concept of subalternity. Thus, subaltern which etymologically implies lower military rank or order has appended several inferences and became inclusive of all the nuanced alternative voices than of the dominant class (es) in any society.

Originating from the idea given by Antonio Gramsci there's been continuous enrichment creating a niche for 'subalternity' in social science research. There's a subaltern studies group which was led by Ranajit Guha in 1980s, and it made conspicuous different attributes of subalternity like caste, class, gender, etc. in South Asian societies (Guha, 1982). The concept further gained prominence to highlight the complexity pertaining to existing subtleness (and largely hijacking) of the voice(s) of subaltern groups (Spivak, 1988). Therefore, it becomes quite significant and a need to explore new different dimensions of subalternity to make the varied forms of alternative (disadvantaged/discriminated) aspects evident especially in the context of Indian social milieu. Also, in this manner it may act as a true corollary to the post-modern research in the present day globalized world.

Objectives of the Workshop:

The concept of subalternity is relatively new and largely subtle. Therefore researchers involved with this theme needs to have comprehension about this and are to be equipped with ontology, epistemology, and methodology for researching subalternity (caste, tribe, feminism, and minorities) in social sciences and humanities. The proposed workshop is an attempt to contribute in terms of disseminating relevant information to the scholars about the theme. The broad objectives of the workshop are:

- a) To facilitate and strengthen scholars involved in exploring subalternity
- b) To disseminate comprehension of subalternity in social sciences and humanities to research scholars
- c) To explain ontology, epistemology, and methodology (ies) for researching subalternity
- d) Providing concurrence of subalternity with post-modern concepts as caste, tribe, gender, and minorities
- e) Equipping scholars with qualitative methods supplemented by analysis of quantitative data
- f) Giving empirical exposure from the field
- g) Enabling scholars to prepare their final report, and make their findings conspicuous

Broad Themes:

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives in a given time frame of seven days, some of the key themes have been identified. This will guide the workshop about observing a particular pattern that may be useful for the scholar(s) engaged in different stages of their research assignment. Some of the broad themes which shall be the highlight of the workshop could be read as:

- a) **Comprehending ‘subalternity’ and its significance in Indian context.**
 - Concept of subalternity and its concurrence with post-modern research
 - Overview of researching the concept in social sciences
 - Understanding the concept in humanities
- b) **Ontology, epistemology, and methodology to explore subalternity**
 - Choosing quantitative or qualitative methods
 - Inference from Humanities (Language/Literature) for the theme
- c) **Utilizing qualitative methods- ethnography, case study, narratives, and discourse analysis**
- d) **Exploration through literature- short story/poem**
- e) **Caste, Tribe, Gender, and Minorities in Social Sciences and Humanities**
- f) **Assimilating quantitative information**
 - Quantitative data
 - Analysis of information through statistical tools
 - Utilization of softwares
- g) **Analysis of (collected) qualitative and quantitative data- making conspicuous the existing subtlety**
- h) **Presentation of the research**
 - Publication/ Report Writing
 - Referencing
 - Copyright/ Plagiarism
- i) **Nuanced understanding through small 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 dealing with subalternity, viz. issues of caste, gender, tribe, and minority, in social sciences and humanities. 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 about their research, and motive of attending the workshop in about 500 to 800 words before 20th February 2018. The maximum intake of scholars for the workshop shall be 30 which include twenty-four outstation candidates. It may be noted down categorically that those who have attended any similar workshops which were sponsored by ICSSR should refrain themselves from applying. This should be ensured through a certificate from the supervisor of the applying candidate. Further, it may also be noted down that those who are employed as a regular employee should apply along with a proper no objection certificate 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 filled registration form and a brief write up before 20th February 2018. The shortlisted candidates will be notified on 26th February 2018. 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 subalternity 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: 20th February 2018

Date of Notification for the selected Candidates via email: 26th February 2018

Date of Commencement of the Seven Days Course: 19th March 2018

Mailing Address:

Dr. Ambedkar Chair
Room No. 003
Humanities & Social Sciences Building
Tezpur University, Napaam, Tezpur
Assam-784028

Email: ambedkarchairtu@gmail.com

Whom to Contact for any information/clarification?

<p>1) Prof. K.Kikhi Chair Professor Dr. Ambedkar Chair Room No. 003 Humanities & Social Sciences Building Tezpur University Assam-784028 Email: kedithejakikhi@yahoo.co.in Mob: 8011546650</p>	<p>2) Dr. D.R.Gautam Research Officer Dr. Ambedkar Chair Room No. 003 Humanities & Social Sciences Building Tezpur University Assam-784028 Email: dharmagautam@gmail.com Mob: 8447204528</p>
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ICSSR Sponsored Research Methodology Workshop on *Researching Subalternity in Social Sciences & Humanities*
Organized by Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Tezpur University, Assam

Registration Form

- 1) Name (in block letters):
- 2) Category (SC/ST/OBC/Minority/General/PH) (Please attach proof for the categories other than General):
- 3) Gender (Male/Female/Third Gender):
- 4) Educational Qualification:
- 5) Designation:
- 6) Email ID:
- 7) Mobile:
- 8) Topic of Doctoral Thesis:
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- 9) Date of Registration (Kindly enclose a copy):
- 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 letter by the supervisor (Yes/No) (Kindly enclose such a letter):
- 16) Accommodation Required (Yes/No):
- 17) 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)