

**A Symposium on  
Research Methods in Social Sciences:  
Sharing Experiences from the Fields**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

This two daylong symposium aims to hold discussions on various research methods used in social sciences focusing on actual experiences from the fields.

The courses on Research Methodology in curricula introduce selected research methods to the students. However, it may still leave a researcher confused when she visits a field for the first time. A researcher who is just beginning her research might have a series of such questions in her mind. How does a researcher get access to the field? How does one begin talking to the people? How does one convince them that she is not a journalist or a government agent? How does one build a rapport? How does one ensure research ethics? Can/ shall one change the methods once she begins her fieldwork? Shall one use multiple/ mixed methods? What are the obstacles and challenges? How does one overcome them? Is field work very exciting or boring? How long does it take to finish field work? How does one record and organize the data collected? In short, what happens on the field? This symposium will try to address these and such other questions which would give useful insights regarding the actual field work for the students and research scholars. Even for seasoned researchers, listening to each others' experiences from the fields would be interesting and helpful.

Early career academicians who have conducted their field work in the recent past would share their field experiences which will be followed by interactive sessions. The panels include ethnography, interview & survey, archival method, visual analysis, theory & philosophy, international relations, oral history & folk songs.