



ICSSR Sponsored two-week Capacity Building Programme on Academic Writing and Publication Processes

for early career teachers and researchers

CONCEPT NOTE

TITLE: ICSSR sponsored two-week Capacity Building Programme on Academic Writing and Publication Processes

ORGANISER: [Department of Economics](#), Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India 110025.

KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS: [Biodiversity Collaborative](#) (BC) and [Indian Society for Ecological Economics](#) (INSEE)

DURATION: 01 December 2022 (Thursday) to 14 December 2022 (Wednesday) (both days inclusive).

A. RATIONALE:

ICSSR has been extending financial support to various courses on Research Methodology and a variety of Capacity Building Programmes (CBPs) over many years. As per the relevant UGC regulations governing Ph.D. programmes, all students registered in such programmes have to take compulsory courses on Research Methodology and Research and Publication Ethics. The latter one has been in place since 2019.

The scope of these courses seldom includes any training on writing for academic or professional purposes. In the course of M.Phil./Ph.D., students learn how to write a dissertation/thesis—at best—with support from their supervisors and members of RAC/SRC (albeit to a greatly varying degree).

ICSSR [CBPs](#) on the other hand attempt to inculcate writing skills and provide exposure to various stages of the publication processes—this is the domain to which this CBP belongs.

As ‘training’ on how to write for academic purposes is present only in a limited fashion in the higher education landscape in India, authors are mostly self-taught by trial and error. Be it a research proposal, a book, a commentary, a working paper or a full-length research paper, it’s almost always learning-by-doing. As a result, the researchers face difficulties in publishing their research through the most desired avenues. This is particularly true for early career academics.

It’s a fact that generations of authors have learnt this ‘skillset’ mostly by themselves, but in the process may have incurred substantial ‘transaction costs’. This often involves time to (a) search for appropriate style, structure, form, expected academic rigour, logical consistency and expositional clarity pertaining to each type of writing and publication avenue, (b) understand them and (c) hone these skills over the years.

This CBP intends to fill up the first two gaps above. In fact, the [NEP 2020](#) (p. 43) envisages such a course for “All fresh Ph.D. entrants [who][...] irrespective of discipline, will be required to take credit-based courses in teaching/ education/ pedagogy/ *writing*” (emphasis added).

Over the years, one can identify a transition in the Indian higher education space away from a narrow disciplinary focus and towards multidisciplinary engagements. A formal recognition of this is provided by the [NEP 2020](#) (p. 37). It is not just among social or natural sciences or engineering, but across and within them. As it is well known, societal challenges warrant engagements with more than one discipline.

Given the experience, interests, and expertise available with the sponsoring and hosting organisations (and knowledge partners), the proposed CBP intends to engage with writings with a strong social science component within the domain of Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators.

B. APPLICATION RELATED

B.1. Eligibility: Teachers (preferably Lecturers and Assistant Professors) and Researchers in a UGC recognized Indian University/ Deemed to be University/ College/ Institutes of National Importance or ICSSR Research Institutes (application should include a bonafide-cum-forwarding letter from the parent institution).

B.2. Number of Participants: 30 [10 each from (a) NCT of Delhi, (b) [NCR](#) but outside of NCT Delhi, and (c) outside of [NCR](#)]. Address of the HEI as included in the bonafide certificate will be used for this purpose. Three separate and mutually exclusive lists will be prepared.

B.3. Selection Process: The CBP will invite applications from eligible candidates in electronic form (details available separately). This will consist of a draft research output (of a maximum length of 2000 words). It will be evaluated against (a) academic rigour, (b) logical consistency and (c) expositional clarity, by a panel of (ordinarily three) experts with experience of serving in editorial board of journals indexed in Scopus and included in UGC-CARE list of referenced journals. Application window will remain open for a minimum period of three weeks. Three lists will be prepared and released as per timeline. Top 10 applicants under three categories (from NCT of Delhi, from NCR but outside of NCT Delhi, from outside of NCR) will be offered a place in the CBP and will be requested to confirm the participation immediately. Three waiting lists will be formed with applicants ranked 11-12 in each category. They will be offered a place only if those offered earlier decline the offer.

B. 4. Application fee and Procedure: There is no application fee. Every eligible and interested teacher and researcher may apply. The shortlisted candidates will be notified on the date as per the timeline.

C. PROGRAMME CONTENT

C.1. Goal: To enhance the quality of publications and the academic profile of higher education institutions in India.

C.2. Objectives:

- a. To impart skills to improve the quality of writing of researchers and academicians,
- b. To develop skills to produce high quality articles for a diverse set of publication options,
- c. To hand-hold the researchers and academicians to improve the quality of their ongoing research output,
- d. To provide an exposure to research and publication ethics,
- e. To offer a 'ringside view' of publication processes in a Scopus indexed and UGC-CARE listed journal.

C.3. Pedagogy: Pedagogic approach includes (a) sessions by domain experts, (b) mentoring by discipline experts, (c) review of written research outputs by 'peers', (d) presentations by participants and discussions thereof, (e) hands-on training on selected aspects of writing and publication, among others.

Sessions have been divided into (a) fundamentals of methods of *doing* research, (b) *expressing* and *structuring* research ideas into defined structures and forms, (c) *improving* visual appeal of the expressions, (d) *understanding* the steps of the publication process.

Mentors will be assigned to the participants soon after the confirmation of their participation is received by the Programme Office. In case the subject matter of the draft research output submitted at the time of application (v.1) falls outside the domain knowledge of mentors available at the host organisation, such participants will be connected with external mentors. Each participant will be expected to respond to comments offered by the mentors to improve the publication potential of v.1. The participants will be required to submit the modified research output (v.2)—in the form of a research article of a length of at least

4000 words—by the end of day 8. This submission will take place through a mock journal portal (see, session 8.3 in programme outline). They will present v.2 on day 11, in groups. Each participant will be given 20 minutes time with appropriate instructions for making effective presentations (session 10.4). Another participant from the same group will play the role of a discussant (ordinarily someone with a disciplinary background different from that of the presenter), who will offer remarks for a maximum of 5 minutes. It will be followed by comments from the mentors on the presentation. 20 minutes time will be given for the Q & A. Like v.1, v.2 also will undergo a plagiarism check with a string of 6-words length. Mentors will offer comments on final research output on day 12 (session 12.2). Participants will also appear in a test with multiple choice questions (MCQ) (session 12.1).

In short, while mentors will address the disciplinary requirements, the lectures and hands-on sessions will take care of the structure, form and related matters. Reading materials will be available online in electronic form, and made accessible through the LMS portal of the host organisation. Link to video of lectures will be uploaded on this portal as well, besides handouts, slides, and other such used by the resource persons.

Medium of delivery of all ‘transactions’ in this CBP, including but not limited to lectures, presentations, comments, hands-on training, and communications will normally be English.

C.4. Draft Programme: Available separately.

D. LOGISTICS

D.1. Boarding and Lodging: Participants from outside of NCR will be offered accommodation during the period of the CBP as per timeline. Entire boarding and lodging of these candidates will be borne by the host organisation. Lunch and tea/coffee will be offered to other participants.

D.2. Travel Support: Limited support to defray travel/transport costs (on need basis) will be extended to participants from outside of NCT of Delhi (i.e., from NCR but outside of NCT of Delhi) and also outside of NCR.

D.3. Responsibilities of the Participants: Participants are expected to carry a suitable electronic device, such as a laptop, through which they can modify the draft research output as well as engage with the hands-on training sessions. The device should support installation of software such as R Studio (for session 6.3 and 6.4) or add-ons to browsers such as Mendeley (for session 4.4).

D.4. Certificate to the Participants: On successful completion of the programme, a certificate will be given to the participants during the valedictory function. Certificate will have ICSSR Name and Logo and will be issued by the host organisation.

E. ABOUT THE COLLABORATING ORGANISATIONS

E.1. Sponsoring Organisation: Indian Council of Social Science Research ([ICSSR](#)), New Delhi.

E.2. Host Organisation: The [Department of Economics](#), established in 1971, under the Faculty of Social Sciences offers [B.A. \(Hons.\)\(Economics\)](#), [M.A. \(Economics\)](#), [Master of Science in Banking and Financial Analytics](#) and [Ph.D. \(Economics\)](#). The Department received INR 20 lakhs grant from UGC under SAP/DRS-I. “To transform the Department into a Centre for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Policy Making in the wider canvas of Economics and Finance” reads its Vision. Its Mission includes (a) To educate and inculcate overall development of the students with proven skills and expertise in the subjects and (b) To prepare the students to compete in the real world. Selected recordings of the proceedings of the CBP will be uploaded on its [YouTube channel](#).

[Jamia Millia Islamia](#), an institution originally established at Aligarh in United Provinces, India in 1920 became a Central University by an act of the Indian Parliament in 1988. In Urdu language, Jamia means ‘University’, and Millia means ‘National’ (see [more](#)). “Strive to foster the goals of building a secular and modern system of integrated education for sustainable development of society and better future for all” reads its [Vision](#) statement. Following are included among its [Mission](#): (a) “To be a teaching and research-intensive university driven by a spirit of innovation”, (b) “To encourage multidisciplinary learning and research in cutting edge and niche areas” and (c) “To take measures towards sustainable development of society and environmental care”.

E.3. Knowledge Partners: [Biodiversity Collaborative](#), is a growing network of institutions and individuals whose shared vision is to promote biodiversity science in India and its application in conservation and sustainable development with a focus on enhancing human well-being. Members of the Collaborative were involved in the Preparatory Phase Project of the National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-Being (supported by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, 2019-21) and in public engagement and outreach to make biodiversity and its links to human well-being a part of society’s imagination and discourse. Since 2021, it is supported by [Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies](#).

The [Indian Society for Ecological Economics](#) (INSEE), established in 1999, aims to further the cause of sustainable development by providing a forum for continuous dialogue among scholars, practitioners and policy analysts working at the interface of the economy, society and the ecosystem. It seeks to provide a platform that would facilitate interactions between scholars from various disciplines, particularly economics and the ecological sciences, and including both natural and social sciences. It works to disseminate the results of research and its policy implications to national and international bodies (governmental and non-governmental) through multiple avenues such as conferences, workshops, networking and publications. INSEE has among its members a large pool of scholars and institutions working in the domains of ecological economics and pushing the frontiers of the discipline primarily working with the concerns at the environment-development interface largely in the global south. Its flagship, open access, no APC, Scopus indexed and UGC CARE listed [Ecology, Economy and Society – the INSEE Journal](#) offers authors a forum to address socio-environmental issues from, across and within the natural and social sciences, with an aim to promote methodological pluralism and inter-disciplinary research