

Centre for Women's Development Studies
An autonomous research institute supported by the
Indian Council of Social Science Research
New Delhi

Gender in Research and Methods of Inquiry
Supported by ICSSR

Dates: 31st January 2022 to 11th February 2022

Concept Note

The Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS) shall hold an interdisciplinary research methodology workshop for M.Phil and PhD students from any field of the social sciences and/or women's /gender studies. The workshop seeks to widen students' understanding of social science issues and methods through an appreciation of (a) the challenges and problems of social research and (b) the implementation of particular methodological techniques in different social science fields from a gender lens. In both these respects, this workshop's focus moves from beyond the 'how to' to situate and discuss particular field settings and methods from the position and vantage point of the concerned researcher. Course presenters shall draw upon their inside knowledge and experience as practicing researchers in their respective areas with a focus on gender.

Purpose of the Workshop

The purpose of the workshop is to address particular research methods, and epistemological and writing concerns from an interdisciplinary gender perspective. The workshop aims to illustrate gender as a key source and method of knowledge production, and towards deepening understanding of social reality. At a general level, the workshop focuses on interdisciplinary methodological practice from a gender perspective as a means to critique dominant epistemological frameworks and systems of knowledge production. In all these respects, it seeks to provide valuable inputs towards students' ongoing and future research.

In addition to presentations by CWDS faculty, competencies in the areas of labour, caste, disability, health, education, conflict etc. shall be drawn from external resource persons who will be invited to make presentations. Methodological issues related to other cross-cutting disciplinary areas such as anthropology, history, along with a session on the CWDS library and its resources, academic writing will be part of the course. Presentations by resource persons would include an overview of their own specific areas of field research followed by a focus on the methodology used, and the epistemic importance of a gender frame in terms of knowledge production. Challenges and/or problems encountered by researchers during the course of fieldwork, methods of data collection, and research related ethical issues are to be shared during presentations by the respective resource person.

In all the above-mentioned respects, the workshop proposes to offer students an opportunity for critical interdisciplinary engagement. It seeks to enhance and deepen students' appreciation of gender across disciplines through a critical understanding of research methods, sources and techniques of data collection. The workshop design is intended to help students reflect and enhance their own knowledge and understanding regarding methodological issues and challenges with regard to their ongoing/future research.