



RESEARCH COMMITTEE
BHARATI COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN
RESEARCH METHODS WORKSHOP
BY



PROFESSOR PRADEEP KRISHNATRAY
DIRECTOR, RESEARCH AND STRATEGIC PLANNING –
JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

2:00-4:00 PM SEPTEMBER 25, 2020
REGISTER AT

<https://forms.gle/4TRJKyCaVP515BZRA>

Registration can be done by 5 PM, September 22, 2020

There is no participation or registration fee



Dr. Shailza Singh
Convenor
Research committee
Bharati college



Dr. Rekha Sapra
Patron
Principal
Bharati College



A REPORT ON THE EVENT

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By
Professor Pradeep Krishnatray
Director, Research And Strategic Planning –
Johns Hopkins
Bloomberg School Of Public Health

On September 25th, 2020 The Research Committee of Bharati College organized a workshop aiming to demonstrate the techniques of conducting empirical research in the field of social sciences. Bharati College was privileged to have Professor Pradeep Krishnatray who delivered an insightful lecture on the methods of doing research. Professor Pradeep Krishnatray is currently a position as the director of Research and Strategic Planning at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. His research work looks at diverse social phenomena that require critical sociological analysis. Some of his recent publications include Framing of the temple-mosque judicial verdict on Indian T.V(2015); Framing of the H1N1 Flu in an Indian Newspaper (2015); Teenagers' Usage of Social Networking Media in a South Indian State (2013); Perceptual Mapping of Hindi News Channels (2010).

The event began with Dr. Shailza Singh, the convenor of the Research Committee and a professor at the Department of Political Science at Bharati College, welcoming Prof. Krishnatray to the event and thanking him for investing his invaluable time in this event. Dr. Shailza was followed by Dr. Rekha Spara, The Principal of Bharati College, who emphasized the relevance of the event and understanding how the act of doing research “is a beautiful process” in itself. Professor Krishnatray began his lecture by stating his apprehension about speaking to a huge audience, who came to listen to him. Prof. Krishnatray clarified to his audience that he would be addressing only certain categories of questions that were sent to him prior to the event by the participants. Hence, he stated that those questions which were related to Philosophical aspects of research and questions surrounding technological concerns would not be addressed by him. However, the sets of questions that he found relevant for a critical understanding of research, and hence his lecture, was that of quantitative, qualitative, and peripheral methods of research. He framed his entire lecture around these three topics and their relevance within the context of particular research.

To this, he emphasized that there are no “best methods” of doing research rather there are “appropriate methods” of doing research. And this entirely depends on the researcher and how she conceptualizes her research. This further determines how would she collect her data and analyze it. At this point, it becomes critical to deciphering which method of research would be appropriate and accessible for the success of the research study. Further, he went onto describe three paradigms concerning the conceptualizations of research: the positivist paradigm- this approach considers the world as existing independent of an observer; the interpretative paradigm- this approach focuses on the interpretations of the realities of the world; the critical paradigm- this approach looks at the fundamental tenets on how things work.

To apply a quantitative or Qualitative approach we need to pay heed to the above paradigms and formulate the questions that we need to ask as researchers. Therefore, Prof. Krishnatray emphasizes two ways of framing research; the first is forming a research hypothesis, and the second is forming a research question. The term hypothesis is generally used when one intends to apply qualitative methods, and the research question is employed during quantitative analysis.

At this point, Prof. Krishnatray emphasizes the importance of the terminologies used during framing a research question. For instance, when we use the term hypothesis it is suggesting that we are stating an “educated guess” which comprises 3 things; an independent variable, a dependent variable, and a relationship between the above two. Further, when a hypothesis uses the word “difference” or “association” we should pay heed to the meanings of these terminologies. Therefore, language employed in a research proposal or an outline is very important, especially in terms of qualitative research. Because the language used in research assigns distinct meanings and values to particular research.

Prof. Krishnatray further talks about governmental policy documents. He states that there are 2 of Policy Analysis. The first being the analytical approach where one critically examines existing policies. The second being the descriptive approach, where one seeks feedback from people for a new policy is due to be implemented.

Following this Prof. Krishnatray goes on to speak about the different methods of doing qualitative analysis. He mentions the following approaches: 1. Effectiveness. 2. Efficiency 3. Ethics. Further, he goes on to explain the difference between qualitative research and quantitative research. And he does this by characterizing both of them according to subjectivity and objectivity, difference in their sample size, and the flexibility involved in doing literature review respectively. Qualitative research he suggests is an excellent way to develop a new theory, whereas, quantitative research is a great way to validate those theories by looking at their practicality in the field. Further, qualitative research is value ridden and quantitative research is value-free.

Prof. Krishnatray defines the different methods for data collection in qualitative methods, which are: in-depth interviews, key-informant interviews, focus group discussions all of which are guided by a research guide. The questions framed for this method of research should be free-flowing, spontaneous, and use projective techniques. Observations made during data collection could be participatory or non-participatory. Some other ways of conducting the non-participatory study are content analysis, textual analysis, and narrative and discourse analysis. He further characterizes different types of sampling methods for research, which are, convenience sampling, purposive sampling, snowball sampling, theoretical sampling, extreme case sampling, and random sampling and comments that the types of samplings used may depend on the research question and gaining access to the field. In the end, Prof. Krishnatray comments that research does not always

have to confide between employing only one of the above methods, qualitative or quantitative. A researcher and make use of both the two and in this case it will be called “mixed method”.

With this Prof. Krishnatray ended his in-depth and detailed lecture and opened the room for questions, queries, and comments. Dr. Shailza Singh thanked the professor for his rigorous lecture and his invaluable contribution to making this event insightful and educational. This was followed by the participants asking and commenting on the lecture which Prof. Krishnatray addressed at length and with precision. The questioning round highlighted many aspects that were taken up during the lecture- philosophy, ethics, online methods of research, privacy, content and textual analysis, mixed-method, and research hypothesis. The event ended with Mr. Inderjeet thanking Prof. Krishnatry, the Principal, the convener, and everyone in the research committee who made this event an academic success.

(Report prepared by Ms. Samhita Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Bharati College)