

REPORT ON THE THREE-DAY NATIONAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP

Organized By: Department of Sociology & Institute of Tribal Studies and Research (ITSR),
Chethalayam

The Department of Sociology, in joint collaboration with the Institute of Tribal Studies and Research (ITSR), Chethalayam, organized a high-level Three-Day National Research Methodology Workshop from February 9 to February 11, 2026. Convened under the title *"Mapping Social Complexities: Contemporary Social Research Frontiers,"* the workshop functioned as an intensive, interdisciplinary academic forum. It was strategically designed to address emerging methodologies, critical epistemological perspectives, and the evolving challenges researchers face when navigating and analyzing highly complex social realities.

The three-day program successfully converged a vibrant academic community comprising research scholars, postgraduate students, and faculty members. It served as a catalyst for cross-disciplinary dialogue, ultimately upgrading the core methodological competencies vital for conducting impactful local, national, and global social research.

Objectives

The curriculum of the workshop was structured to meet several foundational milestones in social science research development:

- **Methodological Enrichment:** To introduce, deconstruct, and explore innovative, critical, and comparative research methodologies tailored to contemporary social structures.
- **Analytical Skill Development:** To fortify the practical, quantitative, and qualitative data analysis skills of early-career researchers through structured pedagogical engagements.
- **Academic & Interdisciplinary Dialogue:** To institute a collaborative platform enabling scholars and students to engage in critical deliberations regarding shifting social processes and fieldwork ethics.

Profile of Resource Persons

The workshop benefited from a highly decorated panel of external experts and field practitioners, ensuring a balanced exposure to both theoretical abstraction and grassroots field-action realities:

Keynote Address

- **Dr. Ashish Xaxa** (*Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar*)

Dr. Xaxa delivered the foundational keynote address, masterfully framing the core theme of mapping contemporary social complexities and establishing the critical methodological ethos that guided the subsequent technical sessions.

Invited Faculty & Technical Experts

- **Dr. Vinil Paul** (*University of Kerala*)
- **Dr. Rajeev S P** (*Rajagiri College of Social Sciences*)
- **Dr. Arathi P M** (*Mahatma Gandhi University*)
- **Dr. Shihab I** (*University of Kerala*)
- **Dr. Biju Vincent** (*Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit*)
- **Dr. Prasad R** (*University of Calicut*)
- **Dr. Amruthraj R M** (*Kerala Institute of Local Administration*)
- **Mr. Jai Sreekumar** (*Totem / Action Aid*)



The inclusion of both university academicians and civil society practitioners provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of how structural research models translate into applied field research, particularly within marginalized and tribal contexts.

Institutional Leadership & Organizing Committee

The successful conceptualization, logistics management, and execution of the national workshop were spearheaded by the dedicated organizing committee representing the host departments:

- **Convenor:** Ms. Bijitha P R
- **Coordinators:** Mr. Shihab P & Ms. Athulya Suresh