

Orientation Workshop
‘Qualitative Research Methods in Education’
(Thematic Focus: *Citizenship, Rights, and Social Policy*)
July 27- August 14, 2015

Department of Educational Policy
National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi-16

1. Introduction

Qualitative research methods hold a special significance for social science research agendas, especially as disciplinary as well as non-disciplinary pursuits within the rubric of the social sciences prioritize aspects of relevance, as much as they accord a priority to rigour. The latter are more commonly studied by way of numerical measurement and test causal hypothesis; and claim that the results are replicable. In contrast, qualitative research methods use a wide range of approaches—none involve numerical measurement. While they cover in-depth a small number of cases, they unearth what is referred to as “thick descriptions”, and “experience proximate concepts”. They have a special significance in understanding how social policy works, what must be its appropriate normative content, as also to interrogate quantitative findings on outcomes or impact.

Informed by a wide range of methodological approaches, qualitative research methods are uniquely suited to explore, analyze, and generate theoretical reflections on a number of key aspects of social policy. While quantitative research methods test specific relationships or the validity of a hypothesis, qualitative methods are at an advantage in terms of the relevance. Designed to explore the human elements of a given social phenomena, qualitative methods examine how individuals see and experience the world. Qualitative approaches are typically used to explore new phenomena and to capture individuals’ thoughts, feelings, or interpretations of meaning and process. Such methods are central to research conducted in the humanities, social sciences, and health sciences, and education.

2. Course Objective

The objective of this course is to provide an overview of the qualitative research methods, assist immersion in specific techniques, and engage the participants with the key debates in the area, including those that argue on the essential unity of the logic of inference across research methods—qualitative as well as quantitative.

The workshop will also introduce the participants to the key texts in the area of thematic focus, and introduce them to the approach of qualitative research methods, specific tools, and techniques of data organization and analysis.

- Master classes on specific concepts, tools and techniques
- Key-note presentations on citizenship and rights
- Computer aided introduction to data analysis software
- Reading material and classroom to be assisted by Moodle

3. Targeted Participants

The expected participants of this workshop are young research scholars engaged in doctoral research at educational institutions, including Universities, the State Councils of Educational Research and Training, and doctoral research institutions. The workshop will also be open to state government functionaries of the Departments of Education/Social Welfare, interested in enhancing research capabilities.

4. Thematic Focus and Design

The design of the course will be such so as to focus on a theoretical immersion on the focus themes of citizenship, rights and social policy. The 1990's represent a tectonic shift in the thinking about social policy when ideas on development have begun to assume the shape of an obligation upon nation states to "give" to their citizens in the nature of their rights. Social policy is no longer an exclusive instrument of the state, or a matter of ideological affirmation by rights group, but a matter of entitlement, rewriting in a sense, the state-citizen compact that is the *raison-d'etre* of legitimacy of the modern state. Not surprising therefore it is no longer enough to assess the achievements and failures of nation states on measures of national income alone, nor is efficiency the sole measure of outcomes of social policy, let alone its substance. There is evermore an emphasis on understanding the human condition as the key-stone on which social policies rest, and the actions of states and governments are legitimated.

5. Course Content

- Main approaches and key debates in qualitative methodology
- Qualitative versus quantitative methods, and using insights from both
- Specific methodological tools—interviews, case method, case comparisons, ethnography, focus group discussions, participant and non-participant observations—analysis of data generated from such sources
- Use of specific sources: Law and Archives
- Analysis and generalization from qualitative field-work
- Introduction to Computer software for analysis of unstructured data generated from qualitative field-work—ATLAS TI and other aspects of technology assisted learning for qualitative research.

Methodology and Assessment for the Proposed Workshop

The nature of the proposed workshop will remain participative in nature. It will involve classroom lecture, group discussion, practice sessions and school visit to the selected schools and presentations by the participants.

Date and Venue of the Workshop

July 27- August 14, 2015

NUEPA, New Delhi.

Resource Persons

Resource persons for this programme shall mainly be from amongst NUEPA faculty with some experts from outside NUEPA.

Participants/Target Groups

Around 30 young faculty members (Assistant Prof.) and research scholars with a social science background will constitute the participants. These participants will be belonging to different research Institutes and Universities, NGOs and professionals engaged in education across the country.

Management of the Workshop

The Orientation workshop will be organised by the Department of Educational Policy, NUEPA. Administrative and logistical support in organising the workshop will be provided by the Training Cell of NUEPA.

Apply for Workshop: M.Phil/Ph.D research scholars from social science background can apply for the orientation workshop. Preference will be given to those working in the area of education. Selected outstation participants will be provided accommodation at NUEPA guest house (from July 26 to August 15, 2015). Reimbursement of AC 3 tier railway fare to students and Air India (economy Class) for permanent faculty members

Last Date: Duly signed nomination form along with the short *research proposal* of your ongoing research (2000-3000 words, not more, and in soft typed form readable by MS-Word) should reach NUEPA on or before July 07, 2015. To avoid the postal delay, participants can email the scanned copy of their nomination form and write-up to methods.nuepa@gmail.com
Cc priyam.manisha@gmail.com; nareshkumar@nuepa.org

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Nomination Form

The following Researcher is hereby nominated to attend the Orientation Workshop on 'Qualitative Research Methods in Education' to be held at NUEPA, New Delhi from **July 27 to August 14, 2015**,

1. **Name:**.....
2. **Subject in Master:**
3. **For Faculty member (Designation):**
4. **For Students (Enrolled in):** MPhil Ph.D
5. **Topic of ongoing Research proposal (attach the copy of the proposal)**
-
6. **Have you attended any programmes at NUEPA earlier? Give the detail.**
-
7. **Home Address:**.....
-**Telephone**.....
- Mobile**.....**Email**.....

(Signature and seal of H.O.D/ Nominating Authority)

- NUEPA will re-imburse travel expenses as per NUEPA rules (attached). Ac 3 tier or below for students. The accommodation will be provided at the NUEPA Hostel.
- The enclosed Nomination Form may kindly be filled up by the candidate and send to the below mentioned address at the earliest to secure participation.
- To avoid any postal delay, candidate can email the **scanned copy of the form with research proposal** to methods.nuepa@gmail.com Cc priyam.manisha@gmail.com; nareshkumar@nuepa.org.
- Selected candidates will be informed by phone/email/post.

Address for Correspondence:

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