

2025

SEPTEMBER 1ST -3RD

Workshop Report

Mixed Methods and Data Analytics in Social Sciences



Conducted by
Sociological Research Unit
ISI , Kolkata and Giridih

Prof. in charge - Prof. Tridip Ray
Coordinator - Dr. Hari Charan Behera

Inaugural



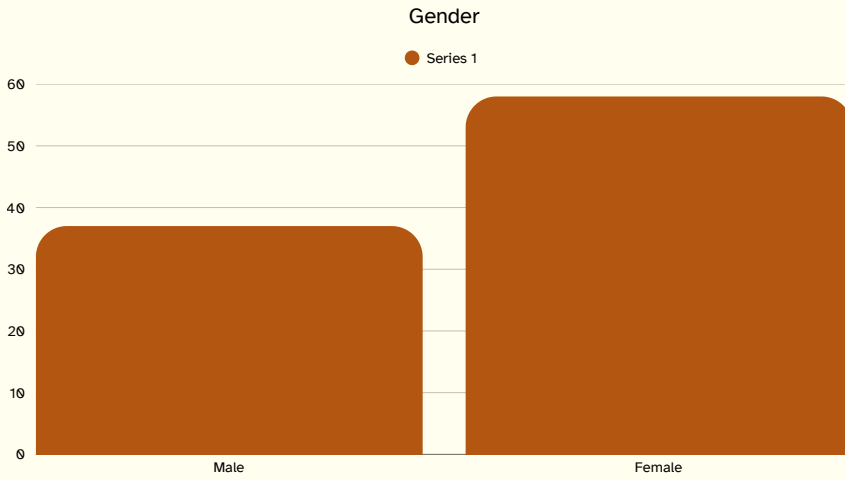
The Sociological Research Unit (SRU) of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, conducted a three-day workshop on Mixed Methods and Data Analytics in Social Sciences (MMDASS) from September 1st to 3rd, 2025, at Fisher Bhavan. This workshop aimed to enhance the methodological proficiency of scholars and practitioners within the social sciences by integrating qualitative and quantitative research traditions with advanced analytical tools. The workshop began with the Felicitation of Guests. Dr. Hari Charan Behera, Associate Professor, SRU, ISI and Workshop Coordinator, delivered the introductory note, setting the stage for the deliberations ahead.

Prof. Biswabrata Pradhan, Dean, ISI, extended a warm Welcome Address, emphasizing the significance of methodological pluralism in social sciences. This was followed by the Inaugural Address by Prof. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, Director, ISI, who officially inaugurated the workshop and highlighted the Institute's commitment to advancing interdisciplinary research.

A highlight of the session was the Keynote Address by Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera, former Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University and Berhampur University, Odisha. His insightful reflections on the evolving role of mixed methods in social sciences enriched the academic discourse and inspired participants. Prof. Tarun Kabiraj shared how the changing times demand for changes in studies and methodologies.

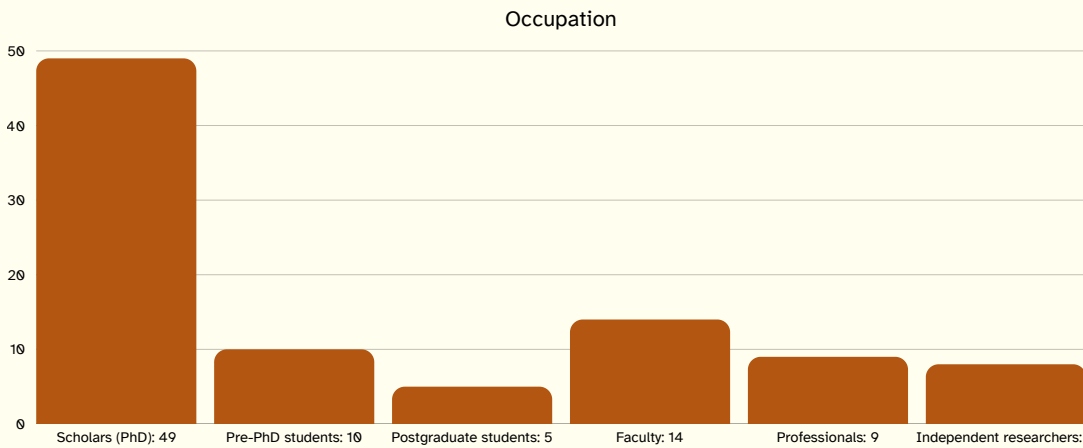
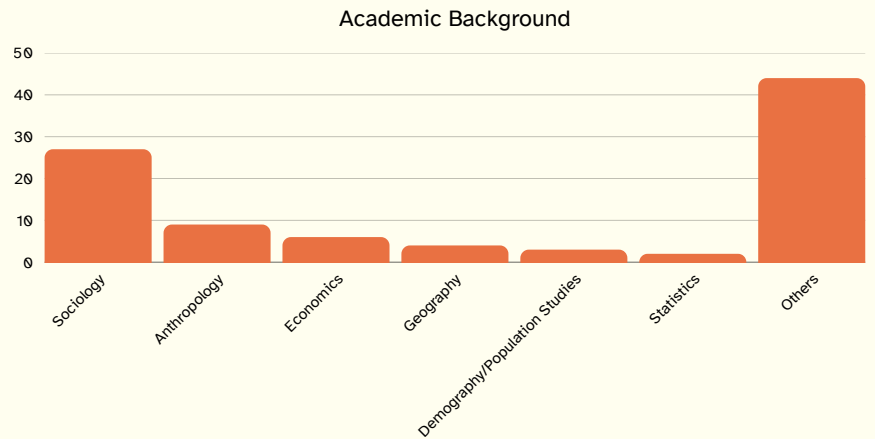
The inaugural session concluded with a formal Vote of thanks by Dr Hari Charan Behera, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and organizers for their presence and contributions. It set a scholarly and collaborative tone, laying a strong foundation for the workshop's discussions and knowledge exchange.

Trends

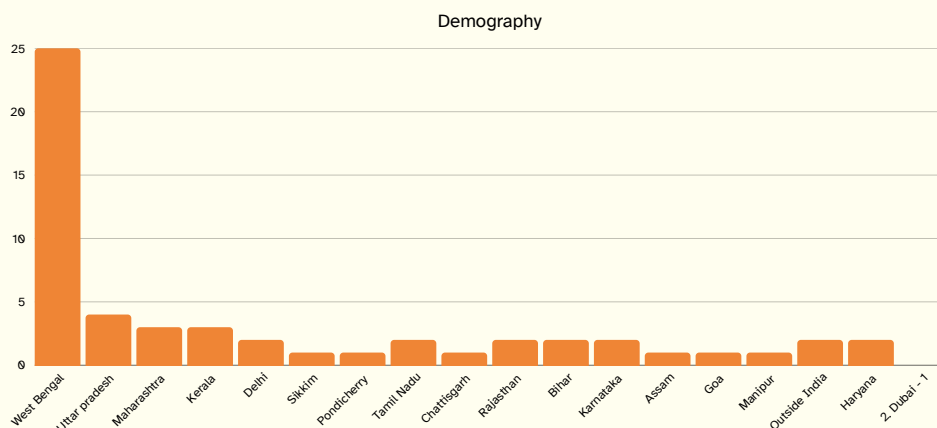


Female scholars constituted the majority, indicating a positive progression toward greater gender inclusivity in advanced research training initiatives.

While sociology represented the largest disciplinary contingent, the significant proportion of participants from "Other" fields highlighted a widespread, interdisciplinary interest in methodological innovation.



The participant demographic was predominantly composed of early-career scholars; however, the participation of faculty and professionals demonstrated the workshop's broad appeal across various career stages.



The workshop garnered pan-Indian participation alongside international interest, though geographical proximity to Kolkata influenced attendance patterns.

The workshop encompassed a combination of lectures, case discussions, and hands-on training, featuring contributions from distinguished faculty and resource persons affiliated with ISI and other institutions. It attracted a broad and diverse cohort of participants from across India and internationally, underscoring both its academic significance and increasing prominence.



Day 1: Foundations

- Mixed Methods Overview (Dr. Hari Charan Behera): Explored the rationale for integrating qualitative and quantitative approaches.
- Qualitative Traditions & Ethnography (Prof. Subrata Sankar Bagchi): Focused on participant observation and immersive research methods.
- Probability & Hypothesis Testing (Prof. Amitava Badyopadhyay).
- Basic Statistics in Social Science (Prof. Amitava Bandyopadhyay).

Focus: Establishing a foundational understanding of mixed methods and statistical reasoning.



Day 2: Research Designs & Data Management

- Case Study Methods (Prof. Deepak Kr. Behera).
- Survey Research & Questionnaire Design (Dr. Nachiketa Chattopadhyay).
- Sampling Strategies (Dr. Nachiketa Chattopadhyay).
- Qualitative Data Management & NVivo (Dr. Deepak Singh).

Focus: Connecting field methods with structured data collection techniques and the utilization of qualitative software.



Day 3: Advanced Tools

- Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP)/Decision Models (Prof. Tarun Kabiraj).
- Autoethnography (Prof. Deepak Kr. Behera).
- Quantitative Data Management (Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya).
- Statistical Analysis using R (Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya).
- Closing Session: Included feedback collection and certificate distribution.

Focus: Application of decision-making models, self-reflective qualitative research methodologies, and computational analysis using R.

Feedback trends

The content was rated as "Good to Excellent" by the majority of participants. A minority rated it as "Average," attributing this to compressed schedules and technical disruptions.

Trend: The academic content was robust, but time and technical constraints somewhat limited its full impact.

Relevance of Content: Most participants deemed the content relevant and beneficial.

The most highly valued sessions included:

- R programming and statistical analysis.
- Qualitative coding.
- Autoethnography and ethnography.
- AHP and survey/sampling design.

Trend: Participants expressed a preference for practical, applied methodologies over purely theoretical overviews.

Resource Persons: Resource persons received universal commendation for their knowledge and effectiveness. Suggestions included simplifying technical sessions for novice participants and incorporating more real-life examples.

Trend: The academic caliber of the resource persons constituted the workshop's paramount strength.

Satisfaction Levels: Nearly all (98%) participants indicated they would recommend future workshops.

Trend: Overall satisfaction was high; however, the hybrid delivery model diminished the experience for online attendees. Offline participants generally reported a smooth experience. Online participants, however, faced challenges such as audio issues, unstable internet connectivity and suboptimal camera angles.

Key Suggestions from Participants

- Extend workshop duration to 5–7 days to facilitate more in-depth learning.
- Offer separate workshops on R, NVivo, Python, and SPSS for specialized focus.
- Increase hands-on practice sessions for software and methodologies.
- Implement tiered sessions to cater to varying skill levels (beginners vs. advanced participants).
- Enhance hybrid mode infrastructure (sound, video, interaction) to improve online engagement.

Emerging trends and insights

- **Gender Inclusivity:** The significantly higher female participation signifies a positive shift in research training landscapes.
- **Disciplinary Breadth:** While sociology was dominant, the substantial "Others" category indicates a growing interdisciplinary demand.
- **Stage of Career:** The prevalence of scholars and pre-PhD participants suggests that workshops like MMDASS are crucial for early-career capacity building.
- **Learning Priorities:** Applied training in R, NVivo, and survey methods garnered the most considerable interest.
- **Hybrid Learning Gap:** Offline participants reported higher satisfaction than their online counterparts, underscoring the imperative for more robust digital engagement mechanisms.
- **Future Direction:** More immersive, longer, and practice-oriented workshops are necessary to fully meet participant expectations.



Conclusion

The Mixed Methods and Data Analytics in Social Sciences (MMDASS) Workshop was a highly successful academic endeavor, effectively balancing qualitative traditions with quantitative rigor. It equipped participants with a comprehensive toolkit for mixed-methods research and underscored the importance of methodological pluralism within the social sciences.

The workshop's primary strengths lay in the expertise of its faculty, the diversity of methods covered, and its interdisciplinary appeal. Its challenges were primarily attributed to its relatively short duration and the technical limitations inherent in its hybrid delivery.

Future workshops can leverage this success by:

- Extending the duration to enable deeper engagement.
- Providing hands-on sessions with distinct tracks for software tools.
- Improving hybrid delivery infrastructure to ensure equitable participation.
- Offering tiered training to accommodate participants with diverse skill levels.

Overall, the workshop significantly strengthened methodological capacity among a diverse participant body and established a precedent for more inclusive, practice-oriented training programs in the future.

Organizing Committee

1. Dr. Hari Charan Behera, Coordinator/Organizing Secretary
2. Dr. Kamalaskya Das, Associate Scientist-A, SRU, ISI Kolkata, member
3. Mr. Vikash Kishku, Scientific Asst. A, ISI Giridih, Member
4. Mr. Md. Shamsul Hoda, ISI Giridih, Member
5. Ms. Shrabana Ukil, JRF, SRU, ISI, Scholar representative
6. Ms. Subhangi Sanyal, JRF, SRU, ISI, Scholar representative

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Gallery

