

CSDS-Lokniti Workshop on Research Methods in Social Science 2026

1. Background and Rationale

Research in the social sciences is a complex and evolving practice. Understanding social, political, or behavioural phenomena requires more than familiarity with data; it demands the ability to connect theoretical insights with empirical research and to translate abstract questions into methodologically sound investigations.

Empirical research, particularly survey-based has become central to understanding electoral behaviour, political participation, representation and accountability. However, collecting data alone is insufficient. Without careful planning, appropriate design and methodological rigor, research risks being incomplete, inconsistent or unreliable.

This three-part workshop series by Lokniti is designed to equip participants with the practical skills necessary for rigorous research. The series moves systematically from research design to data collection and finally to quantitative analysis and presentation.

2. Instructors:

Professor Sanjay Kumar ([Link](#))

Professor Sanjeer Alam ([Link](#))

Professor Hilal Ahmed ([Link](#))

Dr. Vibha Attri ([Link](#))

Ms. Kirti Sharma ([Link](#))

Ms. Krishangi Sinha ([Link](#))

Component I: Research Design, choice of Methods- and the Use of Aggregate Data in Social Science

This part will introduce participants to research as an intellectual practice. It will explore the ways in which research objects are constructed and analyzed in social science inquiry. The sessions will also examine methodological choices and how research questions shape the selection of methods in social science research.

The workshop will further introduce participants to major sources of aggregate data used in social science research. Participants will learn how to locate and navigate data sources and will be introduced to the concepts, significance, and applications of Census and NSS datasets.

Component II: Designing and Conducting Surveys in Social Research

This part will focus on the fundamentals of survey-based research in the social sciences. Participants will be introduced to the basic principles of survey methodology and will learn how to design effective questionnaires.

The sessions will also cover sampling and sampling techniques and will discuss how survey data can be used to frame and investigate research questions in social science research.

Component III: Data Analysis Using SPSS

This part will introduce participants to the basics of data analysis using SPSS. Participants will learn how to work with the software, including reading frequency distributions and recoding data.

The sessions will also cover techniques of cross-tabulation and introduce statistical tests used to examine associations and differences between variables. Participants will gain an understanding of how these tools can be used to interpret and present research findings.

Taken together, the three workshops will provide a structured learning progression—from understanding research design and data sources, to conducting surveys and finally to analyzing data. The series will equip participants with foundational skills necessary to conceptualize, design, implement, analyze and present research in social and political research.

3. Workshop Schedule and Logistics

Dates and Time: 6th to 11th April 2026 | 2-5 p.m.

Duration: Six Days.

Venue: CSDS Seminar Hall, 29 Rajpur Road, Delhi, 110054. In-Person Only.

Schedule: Two Sessions per Day (1 Hour 15 Minutes Each.)

Fees: Rs. 5,000.

Seats: 40.

Enrolment: Attendance is compulsory.

Certificate: Certificates will be awarded on completion.

For any queries please write to lokniti@csds.in

4. Workshop Themes and Session Outline

Part 1: Research Design, Choice of Methods-And the Use of Aggregate Data in Social Science

| Day | Session | Topic |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| Day 1 | Session 1 | Research And Researcher: Identity Of A Researcher And Identity As An Object Of Analysis |
| | Session 2 | Research As Intellectual Practice: Choice Of Methods |

| Day | Session | Topic |
|-------|-----------|---|
| Day 2 | Session 1 | Navigating Data Sources: An Overview Of Location And Features |
| | Session 2 | Census And NSS Data: Concepts, Importance And Application |

Part II: Designing and Conducting Surveys in Social Research

| Day | Session | Topic |
|-------|-----------|---|
| Day 1 | Session 1 | Introduction To Survey Methodology |
| | Session 2 | Designing Effective Questionnaires |
| Day 2 | Session 1 | Sample And Sampling Techniques |
| | Session 2 | Framing Research Question Using Survey Data |

Part III: Data Analysis Using SPSS

| Day | Session | Topic |
|-------|-----------|--|
| Day 1 | Session 1 | Introduction To The SPSS Software |
| | Session 2 | Reading Frequencies And Recoding Data |
| Day 2 | Session 1 | Cross-Tabulation: Analysis And Reporting |
| | Session 2 | Statistical Tests For Associations And Differences |

Travel and accommodation expenses are to be borne by the participants; CSDS-Lokniti does not offer reimbursement for the same.