



Centre for Dalit and Subaltern Studies, RGNIYD  
Sriperumbudur  
&  
Madras Institute of Development Studies  
Chennai



are jointly organising an  
**Academic Writing Workshop for SC M.Phil./Ph.D. Scholars**  
26 & 27 August 2019

**Concept Note**

**Rationale**

Writing is an art in itself. This art has passionate expression in diverse forms about lives of people and the Universe. Academic writing is one of the genres in writing. Every genre calls for distinct skills, ability, and competence to pursue them. Besides, one should have passion for and adequate training in the chosen field. For instance, academic writing in disciplines such as the Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities is needed to fulfil a requirement of a degree in an academic institution. Dissertation and thesis are mandatory to obtain an advanced degree at a university. Writing, in general, may need adequate language and subject competence, combined with methodological protocols/norms. These methodological norms are dynamic to embrace time and space in the academic domain.

In order to capture and understand these emerging trends, contemporary social sciences and humanities have been expanding at a rapid pace, bringing into its fold new subjects and new lines of enquiry, such as regional studies, development studies, cultural studies, film studies, women studies, Dalit studies, and subaltern studies. Today, social sciences traverse traditional disciplinary boundaries and have become more interdisciplinary. The widening scope of the social sciences has resulted in the emergence of new concepts, categories, approaches, perceptions, theories, and methods. As a result of these dynamics, academic writing requires new ways of thinking and engaging with new fields of enquiry. As habitual academic enquiries have always been critical, there is a need to have conceptual clarity and focus on a particular discourse. Scholars should be able to grasp the complexities of emerging new disciplines and objectives of peoples' struggle for such endeavour. These studies have to take cognisance of the changing dynamics both in theory and praxis.

The Academic Writing Workshop will introduce problems, concerns, and tools of analysis, and help research scholars formulate a broader framework and interface with social sciences and other stakeholders. Faculty trained in diverse disciplines of social sciences with adequate understanding of these new discourses, will help students to write. The Workshop will consist of lectures and interactive sessions aimed at strengthening the scholars' perspectives on contemporary academic endeavours.

**Participants:** 40 participants who belong to SC community and are pursuing M.Phil. or Ph.D. in a recognised college/university in India.

## **Objectives**

1. To introduce the academic language and mechanics of writing.
2. To orient the research scholars to grasp the complexities of emerging new disciplines and to have critical thinking and conceptual clarity on a particular discourse.
3. To train research scholars on dynamic methodical norms/protocols in social sciences
4. To help research scholars to formulate a broader framework of their area of research by introducing them to the formulation of research problems.

## **Expected Learning Outcome of the Workshop**

The workshop is expected to develop scientific attitude and academic writing skills required for research scholars in the social sciences.

## **About RGNIYD**

The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, is an Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. It functions as a vital resource centre with its multi-faceted functions, of offering six academic programmes at postgraduate level encompassing various dimensions of youth development, engaging in seminal research in the vital areas of youth development, and coordinating training programmes for state agencies and officials of youth organisations across the country. In view of fulfilling its obligations to the disadvantaged youth, the RGNIYD established the Centre for Dalit and Subaltern Studies (CDSS). The CDSS regularly conducts capacity building and skill development programmes with a prime objective of enhancing leadership, knowledge, and entrepreneurial skills among SC/ST youth in India.

## **About MIDS**

The Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) was founded by Dr Malcolm S. Adiseshiah and Mrs Elizabeth Adiseshiah in January 1971, and it was reconstituted as a National Institute in March 1977 under the joint sponsorship of the Government of India through the ICSSR and the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Institute aims to undertake studies and research pertaining to development problems, with special reference to the agro-rural aspects of Tamil Nadu and the socially and economically backward sections of the population throughout the country. It conducts seminars and conferences on development issues concerning Tamil Nadu and the country at large. It fosters inter-university co-operation among social scientists of the universities of the four southern states. It aims to promote interdisciplinary research and disseminate information relating to the above activities. MIDS has become a Centre for critical thinking on development issues. The services of faculty members are sought by State and Central Government departments, autonomous agencies, universities and colleges, and non-governmental and international organisations.

## **Workshop Coordinators**

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