

Report (2021)

Amidst the pandemic Covid-19, the department of sociology continued with online activities in the year 2021. The academic session began with Student-Faculty Exchange Program-II in collaboration with the department of Sociology, Sophia Girls College, Ajmer. The program included two lectures delivered by faculty members from both the institution. The first lecture was held on 28th July 2021 on the topic- "Unfolding Research-An Overview" by Dr.Tanmay Sharma sir. He began with the topic Unfolding Research by asking a basic question, what is a research. He explained research with a Sanskrit quote, न भूतो न भविष्यति, that means, one that has never occurred and will never occur. He gave a beautiful quote, "Perception is the only reality in sociology." Adding to this, he continued with his explanation and gave the concept of a research onion: to reach to the core of the research we have to peel off the covers. He gave a glimpse to the whole presentation with the help of a road map. He gave diagrammatic representations for better understanding. Following this he came to the first layer of the research which is, research philosophy: the guiding framework for linking theory and method. Adding to this he explained Ontology and Epistemology. Then the second layer, research approaches: inductive, deductive and abductive. Next, methodological choices are a complete distinction between methodology and method. In the fourth layer, that is, research strategies he explained various research strategies that can be used for a successful research.

On 31st July 2021, the second lecture was by Dr.Sharmistha Mallick from Kamala Nehru college on the topic-'Using Ethnography in Social Research'. She began the lecture by asking a few questions to the audience about their daily life. Then, she explained what ethnography is and shared experience from her own PhD research. She described the different forms of ethnography, and gave her own classification of forms of ethnography; the formal/structured form, the informal/unstructured and a mixture of both. Then she explained the use of ethnographic study and how it is useful. She also highlighted the methodological concerns in an ethnography study. Moving on, she explained the ethnographic research processes in great detail, these include research design, research practice, analysis and collation and finally the write up. Finally, she ended the lecture by highlighting the challenges of ethnographic research.

The third series of the Student-Faculty Exchange was held in the month of September 2021. The program included two lectures in collaboration with Sophia Girls' College, Ajmer. The first was on the topic- "Religion in Contemporary Times" held on 15th September 2021. The speaker was Dr.Khushwant Singh from Sophia Girls' College, Ajmer. The lecturer commenced the session by accentuating the importance of different perspectives in Sociology and restated the various aspects of Religion with reference to the discipline. He described religion as a strong vague feeling or belief. He raised some fundamental questions with the students and shed light on some very crucial aspects such as belief, existence of god(s) , spirituality and conflicts regarding religion. He encompassed three important sociological perspectives namely the functionalist, conflict and symbolic interactionist perspectives

The second lecture was delivered on 19th September 2021 by Dr.Archana Prasad mam on the topic-'Kinship, Family and Marriage in India'. She started with the explanation of Kinship that is understanding relations according to the meanings attached to it. There are two types of Kinship - Consanguine Kinship, based on blood that traces descent and Affinal Kinship, based on marriage, adoption, or other connections. Groups recognised or defined on the basis of shared descent are called Descent groups. Next the speaker

explained the concept of Marriage which is the very basis on which any kinship structure is built. Lastly she explained the concept of Family which is one of the vital institutions of human society

On 25th August, the Online lecture series-III was conducted on the topic-'Media through the Lens of Sociology' by Prof Vivek Kumar. He began his lecture by introducing the dictionary meaning of the term "Mass Media " and emphasized how it is important to understand mass media along with sociology. He also talked about the importance of definition regarding sociology and mass media because a definition gives the exactness of the topic as sociology is also a science with an organised body of knowledge and calculability. In this regard, he also talked about three components which help to see media through the lens of sociology and these include study of mass media message having content analysis, second; understanding how the particular message is produced and thirdly, by studying and understanding the audience. He then talked about social psychology that has helped to understand the effects of mass communication on the audience.

The department organised 'Young Research Forum' in which research papers were submitted and presented by undergraduate and postgraduate students across all the disciplines from different colleges and Universities. The theme was 'Covid-19, employment Crises and Social Distress with six sub-themes: • Formal v/s Informal Employment • Employment and Class Inequality • Issues of Virtual Mode of Work • Gender Imbalance • The 'New Normal' at Work • Employment Crisis and Mental Health In the call for abstract more than 30 papers were received and on shortlisting and screening, twenty three papers were presented online more before external experts. On the basis of the judgement of experts, the best three papers were awarded certificates and cash prizes.