

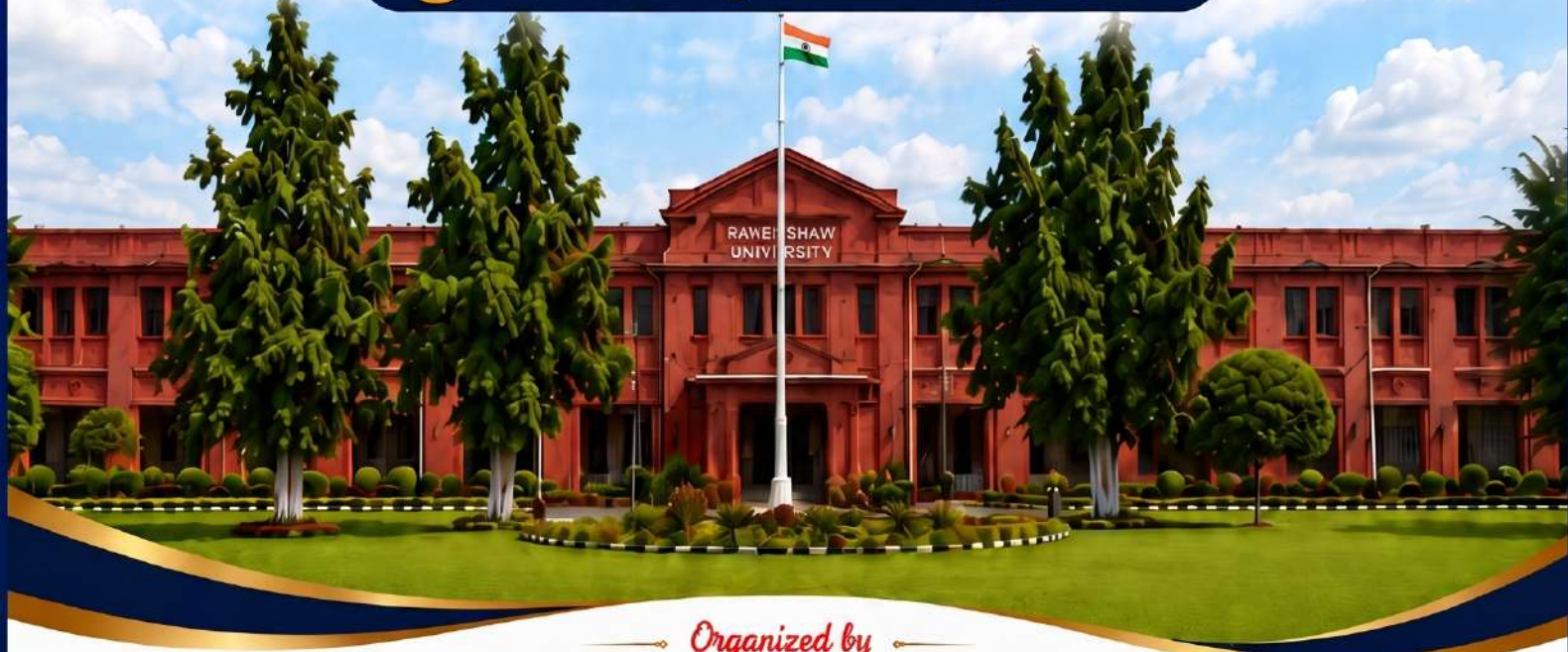


RAVENSHAW UNIVERSITY, PM-USHA SPONSORED
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (FDP)
SEVEN-DAY RESEARCH METHODOLOGY COURSE

On
**Recent Trends in Research Methodology in
Geography & Spatial Data Science**



From **22 August to 28 August, 2026**



Organized by

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY,
RAVENSHAW UNIVERSITY, KATAKA, ODISHA

Sponsored by

Pradhan Mantri Uchcharitar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA),
Ministry of Education, Government of India

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Course Date : From 22 August to 28 August, 2026



Last Date to Apply : 2nd August, 2026



Intimations of Selection : 5th August, 2026



No Registration Fee : Nil



Intake : 30 Seats Only

VENUE



Department of Geography,
Ravenshaw University,
Kataka, Odisha



CONTACT FOR ASSISTANCE

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ABOUT THE RAVENSHAW UNIVERSITY

Established in 1868 as Ravenshaw College and elevated to university status in 2006, Ravenshaw University is one of India's oldest and most esteemed institutions of higher learning. With a distinguished legacy of over 150 years, the University has served as a beacon of intellectual, cultural, and social renaissance in eastern India. It has nurtured generations of eminent scholars, statesmen, civil servants, and thought leaders, thereby earning the distinction of being a historic crucible of academic excellence and nation-building.

The University is accredited with NAAC A⁺⁺ Grade, reflecting its unwavering commitment to academic quality, institutional integrity, and transformative education. It offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes across diverse disciplines including arts, science, commerce, education, management, and interdisciplinary studies. The academic culture of Ravenshaw promotes research-led teaching, critical thinking, ethical scholarship, and societal engagement.

In accordance with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Ravenshaw University fosters innovation, digital integration, and multidisciplinary research ecosystems. Nestled in the heart of Kataka, its campus harmoniously blends colonial-era architectural heritage with modern academic infrastructure, offering a vibrant and inclusive environment for knowledge creation, dissemination, and impact-driven community outreach.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Geography was established in 1944, when Ravenshaw was a college affiliated with Patna University, Bihar, and was renamed as the Department of Applied Geography in 1981. As one of the oldest departments of the University, it continues its glorious legacy with the vision of emerging as a centre of excellence in Geographical through innovative teaching, research, and extension activities aimed at building a creative, enlightened, and productive society. Its mission is to take geography beyond the classroom, develop problem-solving abilities and sensitivity among students for rational decision-making, create and disseminate geographical knowledge through interdisciplinary research and creative inquiry, and contribute proactively to policy formulation through consultancy, extension activities, and intervention programmes. It currently offers undergraduate (B.A. and B.Sc.), postgraduate (M.A. and M.Sc) programmes, and Ph.D. programmes in Geography. The curricula are structured according to the Choice Based Credit System and NEP 2020. The department is equipped with smart classrooms, a seminar hall, a computer laboratory, and a departmental library containing more than 600 books, along with Census publications, journals, magazines, and other academic resources. The postgraduate students also participate in field visits as part of their coursework to gain practical exposure to diverse social and physical environments across the country. The department maintains strong connections with former students through its alumni association, the Association of Ravenshaw Geography Alumni.

BACKGROUND

In the 21st century, the landscape of social science research is undergoing a rapid and unprecedented transformation driven by technological advancements, digital innovation, and the growing demand for evidence-based policymaking. The emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools have significantly influenced the ways in which research is conceived, conducted, analyzed, and disseminated. The landscape of geographic research with no exception has shifted significantly toward computational integration, mixed-methods rigour, and AI-driven spatial intelligence. Research in 2026 emphasizes not just 'where things happen, but predicting 'when' and understanding the "why" through high-fidelity digital representations. In the era of global competitiveness and national priorities such as Digital India, Smart Cities, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), faculty must be equipped to contribute research that is not only academically rigorous but also socially impactful.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has firmly underscored the importance of transforming higher education through multidisciplinary, research orientation, and digital empowerment. Specifically, NEP 2020 calls for the integration of emerging technologies into teaching and research, the enhancement of faculty capacities, and the fostering of research ecosystems that are globally competitive yet locally relevant. In line with these objectives, this capacity-building Programme has been designed to empower early- and mid-career faculty in the social sciences with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to adopt AI-enabled tools, ICT platforms, and digital research methodologies.

NEP 2020 emphasizes the role of faculty as key agents in reshaping India's academic future. The policy encouraged faculties to engage in cutting-edge research and use technology to improve the quality of research and teaching. Yet, despite the proliferation of digital resources and analytical tools, a significant section of the academic community especially in the social sciences remains underexposed to contemporary technologies that could enhance their scholarly output and societal impact. Traditional methodologies, while still relevant, are increasingly insufficient to address complex, data-intensive, and dynamic social realities.

Currently, there is a significant skill divide in the use of tools such as qualitative analysis software (NVivo, Atasi), quantitative platforms (SPSS, STATA, R), and AI-driven techniques like text mining, predictive analytics, and visualization. This Programme addresses that gap by offering practical, guided exposure to advanced tools integrated with sessions on ethical research, academic writing, publishing, and policy relevance. The recent development in geography fosters not only technical skills but also critical perspectives, encouraging faculty to adopt technology responsibly, ethically, and strategically.

By empowering faculty with future-ready research capabilities, this program contributes to institutional excellence, enhances the quality of scholarly output, and fosters a culture of continuous learning and innovation. It aims to create a network of digitally fluent social science researchers who can generate meaningful insights, contribute to national development goals, and mentor the next generation of scholars.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The specific objectives of the Programme are to:

1. Strengthen foundational and advanced research competencies by enabling participants to apply quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method research designs through data-driven and digitally enhanced approaches.
2. Build proficiency in conducting systematic and comprehensive literature reviews, using academic databases, AI-assisted discovery tools, and modern reference management systems to support high-quality research synthesis.
3. Develop practical skills in data analysis by offering hands-on training in statistical and qualitative analysis software such as SPSS, R, QDA Miner, and NVivo for rigorous interpretation of social science data.
4. Introduce participants to systematic literature review using latest available software tools to support evidence-based research and policy-relevant insights.
5. Facilitate access to and utilization of digital knowledge platforms, including preprint servers, open-access repositories, and collaborative research databases for enhanced dissemination and engagement.
6. Foster ethical research practices and academic integrity by sensitizing participants to responsible AI use, plagiarism prevention, and adherence to global research ethics standards.
7. Enhance scholarly writing and publication skills, guiding participants in drafting research papers, navigating peer-review processes, choosing appropriate journals, and improving citation and referencing techniques.
8. Encourage the development of interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research proposals, integrating social science knowledge with digital innovation in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

COURSE COVERAGE / THEMATIC MODULES

- 1. Introduction to Research Fundamentals:** Overview of scientific inquiry and the role of digital tools in understanding and analyzing complex social phenomena.
- 2. Research Paradigms and Methodologies:** In-depth sessions on quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method research approaches with illustrative case studies. Focus on their integration using software tools and AI-assisted methodologies.
- 3. Digital Literature Review and Academic Discovery Tools:** Techniques for conducting systematic and integrative reviews using SCOPUS, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and AI-powered platforms such as SCISPACE, Connected Papers, and Semantic Scholar.
- 4. Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis:** Application of statistical techniques: correlation, regression, exploratory factor analysis (EFA) using SPSS, and STATA.
- 5. Introduce participants to the fundamentals of Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and GeoAI, and Provide hands-on experience using open-source data.**
- 6. AI and ICT Tools for Research Transformation:** Integrating platforms such as ChatGPT for ideation and conceptualization, Grammarly and Quill Bot for writing enhancement, and Tableau for interactive data visualization.
- 7. Qualitative Data Analysis using Digital Tools:** Hands-on training in QDA, ATLAS.ti, and NVivo for coding, content analysis, text mining, and data triangulation with digital visualization features.

8. Ethics, Academic Integrity, and Responsible Research Practices: Understanding plagiarism, ethical dilemmas in digital data use, and Indian regulatory frameworks. Coverage of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), AI-ethics, and open science practices.

ELIGIBILITY

All those who are serving as a Lecturer/Assistant Professor/Young Faculty in the field of Social Sciences in a UGC recognized Indian University/Deemed University/College/Institute of National Importance and ICSSR Research Institutes or engaged in or planning to engage in economic and social science research will be eligible to apply for the course. Limited seats are available for candidates with or without Ph.D having potential to be teachers.

HOW TO APPLY

The number of seats is limited to 30. Interested candidates should submit their applications only through email at fdp.geo2026@gmail.com on or before 02 August 2026. No online or Google Form needs to be filled in. Shortlisted participants will be informed by 05 August 2026.

The following documents must be attached to the email:

1. Brief CV of the applicant and PG and Ph.D certificates.
2. Research statement covering current research problems (not more than 2 pages).
3. Recommendation of the Forwarding Authority

For Application and NOC Form:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17QVF9iM43f8w4oy0dZeSwjiaZxdW61t/view?usp=sharing>

4. All the selected candidates must submit the **NOC** at the time of joining the course issued by head of the Institutions.
*Participants are required to bring their **laptop** for practical sessions.

REGISTRATION FEES

There is no registration fee for the selected participants.

ACCOMMODATION

Shared accommodation will be provided only to outstation participants. All participants will receive local hospitality, including **meals and refreshments** such as tea, coffee, and snacks during the scheduled programme breaks.

