REPORT

of

Faculty Development Program

on

"Research Grants and Funding: Writing Effective Proposals"

(26th July 2024 to 31st July 2024)

K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM

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REPORT ON FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON "**RESEARCH GRANTS AND FUNDING: WRITING EFFECTIVE PROPOSALS**"

1. Introduction

Research grants and funding play a crucial role in the academic and scientific landscape, enabling researchers to pursue innovative projects, conduct experiments, and advance knowledge across various disciplines. Writing effective grant proposals is essential for securing this funding, as the proposal serves as a key document to convince funding agencies of the project's value and feasibility. Keeping in view of this need, we have put together a primer course on how to write effective proposals in social science, management and humanities. The objective of the FDP is to cover a broad spectrum of contemporary topics, including major funding agencies, crafting a grant proposal, filing an application, networking with funders, leveraging technology for research grants and more and get exposed to cutting edge research proposals. At the end of the Faculty Development Programme, we expect that participants would have a good grounding in writing impeccable research proposals, and the confidence to send these proposals to reputed organizations such as ICSSR, DST. Infosys, Reliance to name a few.

Objectives

- To provide an understanding of various types of funding agencies and sources.
- To have an understanding of how to structure a grant proposal for the faculty members.
- To have first-hand practical experience of learning how to develop a budget and justification for grant proposal.
- To have a good understanding of developing grant application process.
- To understand the importance of building relationships with Funders and leveraging technology for grant seeking.

There were ***two external*** speakers from different institutes and several ***participants*** from K.R. Mangalam University.

The sessions of the FDP were planned to meet the desired objectives. Schedule of the FDP has been enclosed.

2. Day-wise Report of the Sessions Conducted

Session I – 26 July 2024 (Friday)

The topic of the First session was on the theme "**Research Grants and Funding: Writing Effective Proposals"** as part of inaugural session. The keynote address was executed **by Dr. Mehraj Uddin Mir, Chair Professor (Motilal Nehru Chair) from K.R Mangalam University.**

Dr. Mehraj Sir emphasizes that a grant proposal serves as a formal request for financial support, outlining the significance of the research, the methodology, and the anticipated outcomes. The process begins with identifying a compelling research question and articulating its relevance to the broader field. He also explained that a well-structured proposal should include a clear project timeline, a detailed budget that aligns with the proposed activities, and an explanation of the research team's capacity to execute the project.

Dr. Minhaj Ahmed Khan, Assistant Professor (Political Science), K.R. Mangalam University, moderated the session effectively. Later, the Q&A session was led successfully. The session was attended by more than twenty-five participants through hybrid mode.



Day 1 Session
Inaugurated by Dr. Mehraj Uddin Mir, Chair Professor, session on "Research Grants and Funding: Writing Effective Proposals"



Day 1 Session on "Research Grants and Funding: Writing Effective Proposals"

Session II – 26 July 2024 (Friday)

The topic of the second session was **'Types of Funding Agencies and Source'**. The invited expert on the topic was **Prof. Pawan Kumar, Associate Dean Research, K.R Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana.**

Prof. Pawan Kumar enlightened the participants on the key elements and strategies required to develop a compelling research proposal. The session commenced with an overview of the importance of a well-crafted research proposal, emphasizing its role in securing funding and gaining approval for research projects. The speaker highlighted the need for a clear research question, stating that it serves as the foundation for the entire proposal. Participants were guided through the process of formulating a concise and focused research question that aligns with the overall objectives of the study.

Furthermore, the session delved into the essential components of a research proposal. The speaker emphasized the importance of crafting a robust methodology section, including a detailed explanation of the research design, data collection methods, and analysis techniques. The participants were encouraged to consider potential limitations and ethical considerations associated with their research, ensuring transparency and credibility in their proposal. Through interactive discussions and practical examples, attendees gained practical tools and techniques to develop an effective research proposal that will captivate reviewers and increase their chances of project success. Also, he highlights various funding agencies that support research proposals, including prominent organizations such as Reliance, the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), and numerous other private and government entities. These agencies provide essential financial backing for diverse research initiatives, enabling scholars to explore innovative ideas and contribute to their fields. Reliance, as a corporate funder, often focuses on projects that align with its business interests, while ICSSR and similar governmental organizations prioritize social science research and public policy studies.

The session was attended by more than 25 faculty members.



Day 1 Session
Session on 'Types of Funding Agencies and Source'



Day 1 Session
Session on 'Types of Funding Agencies and Source'



Day 1 Session
Session on 'Types of Funding Agencies and Source'

Session III – 27 July (Saturday)

The topic of the third session of the FDP was **"Structuring a Grant Proposal"**. The invited expert on the topic **was Prof. Dr. Raviprasad Narayanan, Associate Professor, Center for East Asian Studies School of International Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.**

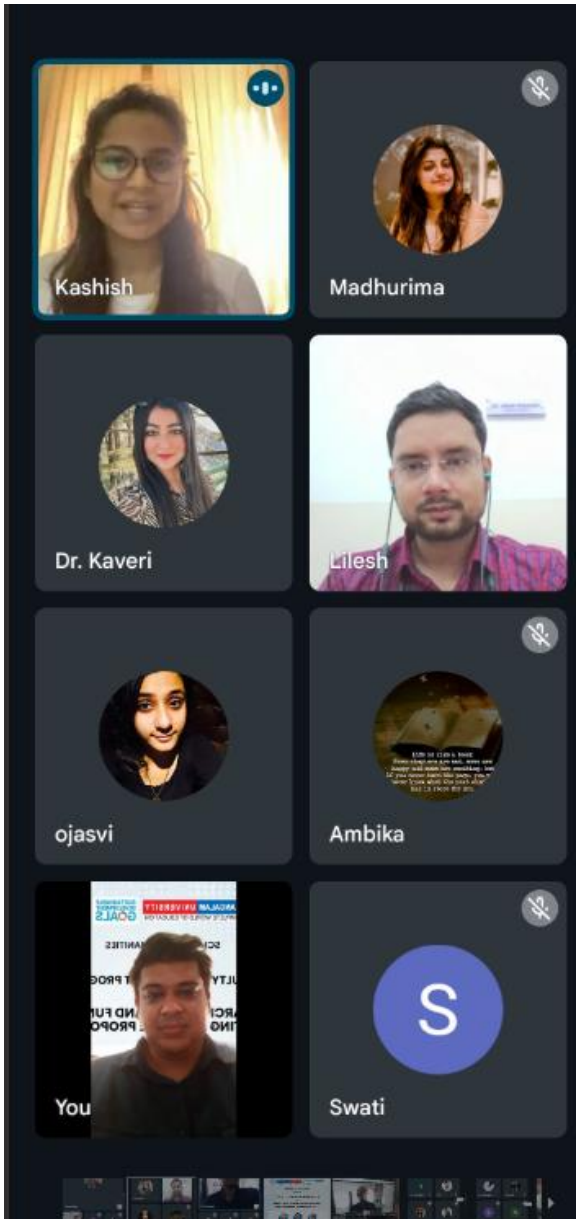
Prof. Dr. Raviprasad Narayanan enlightened the faculty members on the key components of a Grant Proposal. He emphasizes the importance of a well-structured grant proposal to effectively communicate research intentions and secure funding. He advises that proposals should be tailored to the audience, assuming reviewers are knowledgeable but not experts in the specific research area. Key components include a clear statement of need, detailed project descriptions, and explicit objectives. Furthermore, he highlights the necessity of addressing potential reviewer questions regarding the project's significance and feasibility. Clarity, organization, and adherence to specific guidelines are crucial, as poorly structured proposals are less likely to succeed. Ultimately, a compelling proposal should convincingly demonstrate the project's value and the qualifications of the research team.

Dr. Minhaj Ahmed Khan, Assistant Professor (Political Science), K.R. Mangalam University, moderated the session effectively. Later the Q&A session was conducted successfully.

The session was attended by more than 25 participants through the zoom meeting link, online platform: https://meet.google.com/dta-yrmz-sgf.



Day 2 Session on "Structuring a Grant Proposal"



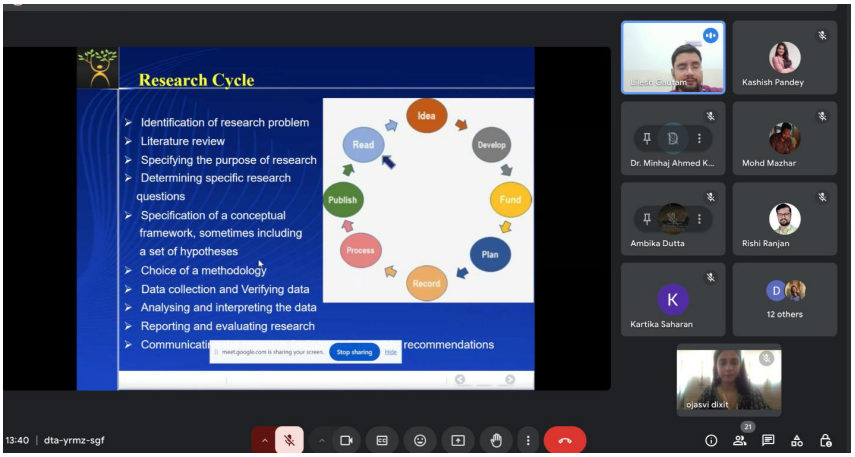
Day 2 Session on "Structuring a Grant Proposal"

Session IV – 27 July (Saturday)

The topic of the fourth session of the FDP was **"Developing a Budget and Justification for Grant Proposal"**. The invited expert on the topic was **Dr. Lilesh Gautam, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies, Faridabad, Haryana.**

Dr. Lilesh emphasized the critical aspects of developing a budget and its justification for grant proposals. He outlined the importance of creating a detailed budget that accurately reflects all anticipated expenses, including personnel costs, materials, and operational expenses. Dr. Lilesh stressed the necessity of justifying each budget item, explaining how funds will be utilized to achieve project objectives. He also highlighted the need to adhere to funding agency guidelines, ensuring that budget allocations align with their requirements. By presenting a clear and justified budget, researchers can enhance the credibility of their proposals and improve their chances of securing funding.

Dr. Minhaj Ahmed Khan, Assistant Professor (Political Science), K.R. Mangalam University, moderated the session effectively. Later the Q&A session was conducted successfully. The session was attended by more than 25 participants through the zoom meeting link, online platform: https://meet.google.com/dta-yrmz-sgf



Day 2 Session on "Developing a Budget and Justification for Grant Proposal"



Day 2 Session on "Developing a Budget and Justification for Grant Proposal"

Session V - 29 July (Monday)

The fifth session of the Faculty Development Programme (FDP) focused on the **"Grant Application Process,"** featuring **Dr. Seema Raj, Associate Dean (Research Grants) at K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana, as the invited expert.**

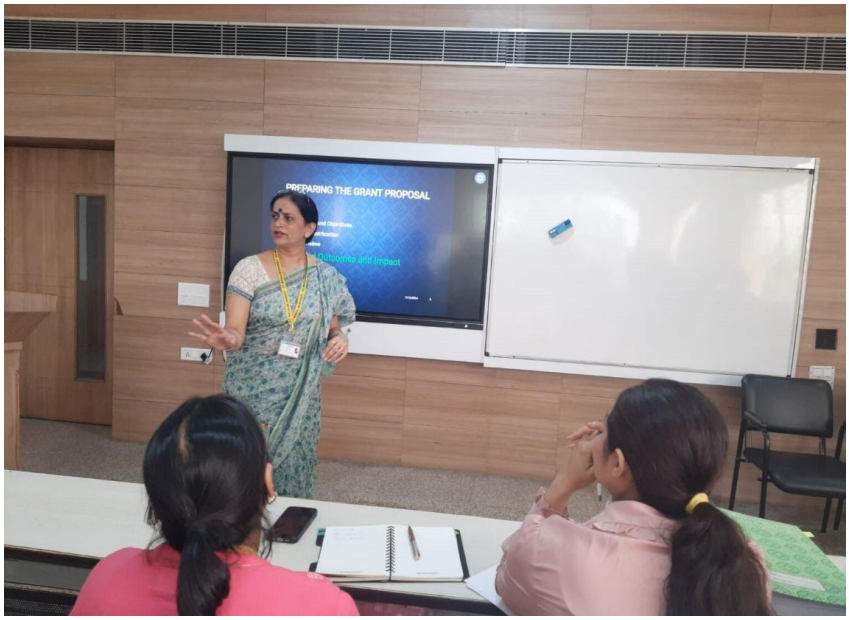
In her presentation, Dr. Raj outlined the essential steps involved in preparing a successful grant application, emphasizing the importance of understanding the specific requirements and guidelines set by funding agencies. She discussed strategies for effectively articulating research objectives, developing a compelling narrative, and ensuring that the budget aligns with project goals. Dr. Raj also highlighted common pitfalls to avoid during the application process, encouraging participants to seek feedback and collaborate with colleagues to enhance their proposals.

Ms. Ojasvi Dixit, Assistant Professor (Economics), K.R. Mangalam University, moderated the session effectively. Later the Q&A session was conducted successfully.

The session was attended by more than 30 participants through offline mode.



Day 3 Session on "Grant Application Process"



Day 3 Session on "Grant Application Process"

Session VI – 30 July'2024 (Tuesday)

The sixth session of the Faculty Development Programme (FDP) focused on **"Building Relationships with Funders,"** led by **Dr. Anshika Prakash, Director of the K.R. Mangalam Entrepreneurship and Incubation Centre at K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana**.

In her session, Dr. Prakash emphasized the importance of establishing and nurturing relationships with funding agencies to enhance the likelihood of securing grants. She discussed strategies for effective communication, understanding funders' priorities, and aligning research proposals with their goals. Dr. Prakash also highlighted the significance of transparency and accountability in maintaining these relationships, encouraging researchers to engage with funders beyond the proposal stage to foster long-term partnerships that can lead to future funding opportunities.

Ms. Ojasvi Dixit, Assistant Professor (Economics), K.R. Mangalam University, moderated the session effectively. Later the Q&A session was conducted successfully.



Day 4 Session on "Building Relationships with Funders"



Day 4 Session on "Building Relationships with Funders"

Session VII – 30th July 2024 (Tuesday)

The topic of the seventh session was **'Leveraging Technology for Grant Seeking'**. The invited expert on the topic was **Dr. Indu Singh, Research Communication Officer, Research and Development Cell, K. R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana**.

Dr. Indu Singh shared several key insights to guide researchers in achieving successful publication outcomes. The session emphasized the significance of selecting the right journal for submission. Participants were encouraged to thoroughly evaluate the scope, target audience, and impact factor of potential journals, aligning their research with journal's focus and ensuring their work reaches the appropriate readership. Moreover, the session highlighted the importance of conducting a comprehensive literature review to situate the research within the existing body of knowledge, demonstrating novelty and relevance. By identifying gaps in previous studies, researchers can articulate the unique contributions of their work and position it for publication in reputable journals.

Furthermore, the session emphasized the significance of clear and concise writing in manuscript preparation. Attendees were advised to structure their papers effectively, ensuring a logical flow from introduction to conclusion. The session stressed the importance of crafting a compelling title and abstract that accurately capture the essence of the research, enticing potential readers. Additionally, participants were encouraged to use a precise and concise writing style, employing proper grammar, punctuation, and citation formats to enhance readability and credibility. The session concluded by highlighting the necessity of careful proofreading and seeking feedback from colleagues or mentors to improve the quality of the paper before submission, thereby increasing the chances of acceptance in quality indexed journals.

Ms. Ojasvi Dixit, Assistant Professor (Economics), K.R. Mangalam University, moderated the session effectively. Later the Q&A session was conducted successfully. A Q&A session provided a valuable platform for participants to deepen their understanding and was led successfully. The Vote of Thanks was also done by the moderator towards the end of the session.

The session was attended by more than 25 participants through the offline mode.



Day 4 Session on 'Leveraging Technology for Grant Seeking'



Day 4 Session on 'Leveraging Technology for Grant Seeking'

Session VIII – 31st July 2024 (Wednesday)

Prof. Raghuvir Singh, Vice Chancellor of K.R. Mangalam University, delivered the **valedictory and keynote address**, where he shared insights on the significance of research and academic collaboration.

In his valedictory and keynote address, Prof. Raghuvir Singh, Vice Chancellor of K.R. Mangalam University, discussed the critical elements of writing a successful research proposal for grants. He emphasized the importance of clearly articulating the research objectives and aligning them with the priorities of funding agencies. Prof. Singh highlighted the need for a well-structured proposal that includes a comprehensive budget and justification, as well as a robust methodology that demonstrates the project's feasibility and potential impact. He encouraged researchers to engage with funders proactively, fostering relationships that can enhance the likelihood of securing funding. His insights aimed to empower attendees to refine their proposal-writing skills and navigate the complexities of the grant application process effectively.

The Vote of Thanks was also done by the moderator after the session. The session was attended by more than participants through the offline mode.



Day 5 Session on valedictory and keynote address, Prof. Raghuvir Singh, Vice Chancellor of K.R. Mangalam University



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