



***AVINASHILINGAM INSTITUTE FOR HOME SCIENCE AND
HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WOMEN***

COIMBATORE – 641 043

Report of Special Programme on Empirical Methods in Research

Date: 08.05.2026

Time: 10.45 am to 11.45 am

Venue: Bio – Science Seminar Hall

The Avinashilingam Centre for International Education (ACIE) and the Research and Development Cell, collaboratively organised a **“Special Programme on Empirical Methods in Research”** on **8th May, 2026 at 10.45 am** in the Bio – Science Seminar Hall. The resource person for the occasion was Dr. Stephane Mechoulan, Honorary Adjunct Professor, BITS Law School, Mumbai, Department of Public and International Affairs, Dalhousie University. All the research scholars from various departments were the audience for the event.



The Speaker seated along with the Organisers

The event commenced with the prayer song rendered by Ms. Swetha from the Music department. Dr.V. Vimala, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, welcomed the gathering, and Dr. S. Sumathi, Professor of BCBT and ACIE Coordinator, shared a few words of greeting with the audience.



The audience listening to the session

The speaker commenced his speech by expressing his sincere gratitude to the organizers. He began the session by conveying the significance of learning about the research methods and expressed that learning about research methods will help one develop a deeper understanding about the world and nurture certain patterns of thoughts. He mentioned that research is like music, the more one practices, the better the researcher will be. He encouraged the scholars to ask questions and challenge the perspectives of the field experts and that will help them to grow in the field.

The speaker further spoke about the significance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in present times. He mentioned that AI is a powerful tool and it has evolved in the few years to become a good researcher's assistant. He also advised that a researcher should use AI tool with caution and not believe it superficially but double check its content. He stated that although AI performs much of the work, humans are responsible and accountable for its use.

The speaker explained the Inductive and Deductive types of research. Inductive is where one draws from observation to develop new rules, whereas, in Deductive one follows the rules to reach a conclusion. He emphasized the purposes of social science research methods like, (a) Descriptive (b) Explanation, (c) Causal research. He elaborated on the following Toulmin Model of Argumentation – (i) Claim – the decision you make. Eg. The high school should add two more counsellors in its staff, (ii) Evidence – the observation or data you use to support your decision. Eg. The current number of counsellors in the high school is below the state average for schools of its site, (iii) Warrant – why the data or observation are sufficient to support your decision. Eg. The state average is a good target to use to decide how many counsellors to have in the school.



The Speaker handling the Session

The speaker pointed out that the researcher should know the basic elements of research and understand ethics. Some of the goals of the researcher are to understand the basic issues and processes related to evaluating a project, to identify the ethical issues with conducting a research project that involves data collection from human subjects and to understand core concepts associated with conducting research and evolution. The speaker emphasized on the basic approaches of

research – quantitative, qualitative and mixed approach. He explained how research design and data collection should be done, where the research design should have a proper experiment, treatment and control group.



The Organisers gifting the Speaker

The speaker concluded the speech by giving the significance of research. The session ended with interaction with the audience, where the audience posted questions regarding the types of research. One of the participants asked if one could use an experimental method in social science research to which the resource person mentioned that experimental method is not limited to the science field. Based on the scope of the research one could use experimental research. One of the questions was about the suggestion on best sample size to which he said that the sample size is based on the research and its variables. The resource person gave live and relatable examples that helped the audience to comprehend well.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. V. Mrunalini, Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education, marking the conclusion of the event.
