

Participative and Experiential Learning

Department of Sociology

Field Study Report

As per curriculum framed by affiliating University, University of Calcutta under CCF-2020, Students of Semester - II[Major] have to complete field study in SEC-2 which contains compulsory Assignments on Field Visit for 10 marks and Assignment -2: Report writing in approx. 1000 words {25 marks -1 credit}. This field study is mandatory for all students of Semester-II in SEC2.

1. Topic Selection

Students are free to choose topics that align with their own interests, but these topics should be relevant to social issues or problems within society. Broad categories could include:

- **Social inequality (e.g., class, race, gender)**
- **Economic disparities (e.g., poverty, unemployment)**
- **Cultural shifts (e.g., migration, cultural assimilation)**
- **Environmental issues (e.g., climate change, pollution)**
- **Health and well-being (e.g., mental health, access to healthcare)**
- **Education and access to knowledge**

2. Sociological Perspectives

Once a topic is selected, students are encouraged to analyze the issue from multiple sociological viewpoints. They could focus on:

- **Awareness:** How aware is the general population of the issue? What factors contribute to this awareness (or lack thereof)?
- **Effects:** What are the social, cultural, and economic impacts of the issue on individuals and communities?
- **Causes:** What are the underlying social, political, or economic causes of the issue? Are these causes related to broader structural issues like inequality, government policies, or global trends?

- **Solutions:** What are the possible solutions to the problem? How can they be implemented within the community or society at large?

3. Sociological Variables to Explore

Students are encouraged to look at how different social, cultural, economic, ethical, and geographical contexts shape the understanding and resolution of the issues. For example:

- **Social Environment:** How do different social structures (e.g., family, community, education systems) play a role in either perpetuating or solving the problem?
- **Cultural Context:** How do cultural norms and values influence people's behavior and responses to the issue?
- **Economic Factors:** How do economic conditions (e.g., unemployment, poverty) contribute to or hinder solutions?
- **Ethical Considerations:** What ethical dilemmas arise when addressing the issue? Are there moral conflicts in the proposed solutions?
- **Geographical Influences:** How do geographical factors (e.g., rural vs. urban settings, or regional disparities) impact the issue or its solutions?

4. Respondent Perspectives

As part of the research, students could gather data from different respondents—such as community members, experts, or individuals directly impacted by the issue—to understand various perspectives. This data can help shape conclusions about:

- **Public perception:** How do people perceive the issue, and what are their proposed solutions?
- **Personal experiences:** How do individual experiences of the issue inform larger societal trends?

- **Expert insights:** What solutions or interventions are recommended by professionals in fields related to the issue (e.g., social work, education, health)?

5. Combatting the Issue

Finally, students should explore how different groups or communities are combating the issue. This could involve:

- **Government and policy responses:** What role does policy play in addressing the issue? Are there policies in place to mitigate the problem or is reform needed?
- **Community-based efforts:** How do grassroots organizations or local communities work to address the issue on the ground?
- **Cultural shifts:** Are there cultural changes that might contribute to reducing the problem (e.g., awareness campaigns, educational initiatives)?

6. Conclusion and Reflection

Students should summarize their findings, highlighting the complexity of social issues and the various ways in which people from different backgrounds respond to them.

The reflection should emphasize:

- The multifaceted nature of social issues.
- The importance of understanding social, cultural, economic, ethical, and geographical factors when studying these issues.
- The role of sociology in shaping solutions that are both practical and sensitive to the needs of diverse communities.

By incorporating these sociological dimensions, students can gain a deeper understanding of how societal problems arise, how people respond to them, and how solutions can be designed to address the needs of all stakeholders.

Locations of field study: To fulfill the requirements as per curriculum under CCF Major the Department organized a field study in Slum Area in Kolkata, West Bengal closest to the College with an objective that this Slum is situated under Kolkata

Municipal Corporation jurisdiction. Location was mainly decided for field study and report writing. Moreover, they are our neighbour. What type of sufferings they are facing in their daily life. This field study considered not only the above mentioned perspectives only, students interacted with respondents from all religious groups, caste groups, age groups etc. Also, to get significance responses towards the issues selected by them.

Objective of the field study: 1) To think and decide the topic / area of study outside from their regular curriculum but related with the curriculum.

2) To prepare the study materials in consultations with their group mentors.

3) To handle / tackle the situation if arise.

4) To know the interaction procedures with unknown people considering their basic interest of study during the time of survey.

5) To gain knowledge about hands on training.

6) To apply the best possible sociological methods, techniques and tools.

7) Framing of questionnaire.

8) Experience of collecting information from the field.

9) To know how to complete and conclude the process.

10) To prepare students for future higher studies or suitable jobs.

Total number of students was 40. Out of 40 students two students discontinued their studies for specific personal reasons.

Before going to field study students were prepared questions bank on their own and following the rule of questionnaire for survey, questions were selected by both faculty members and students.

The field study was conducted on different cultural, economic, religion, languages, and educational, environmental, community etc. sectors of people. Even the sources from where people received benefits as per situations faced by them time to time.

After completion of field study students prepared a Data Bank considering the related parameters and attributes of respective selected topics. Students have successfully prepared and presented their report very satisfactorily.

Field studies serve as an essential training ground for students to develop proficiency in various sociological research methods. These methods help students collect and analyze data to better understand social phenomena. Key techniques learned through field studies include: **Qualitative Methods & Quantitative Methods:**

- **Surveys:** Students learn how to design and administer surveys, collecting data that can be analyzed statistically to uncover patterns and correlations in social behavior.
- **Statistical Analysis:** Training on tools for analyzing data, such as SPSS or Excel, allows students to quantify social phenomena and generate valid conclusions.

Mixed Methods: Combining qualitative and quantitative approaches provides a comprehensive way to understand complex social issues. Students learn to triangulate data from different sources to strengthen the validity of their findings.

Importance of Field Study in Sociological Research

Field studies are highly relevant in today's sociological research for several reasons:

- **Contextual Understanding:** Sociology is about understanding people in their social contexts. Field studies help students see how social behavior is influenced by real-world conditions, rather than abstract theories.
- **Practical Application:** The knowledge gained through field research is directly applicable to real-world scenarios, allowing students to link theory to practice.
- **Current Social Issues:** Field studies provide insights into ongoing social issues such as inequality, migration, and environmental problems, offering students a chance to explore these issues in their immediate context.

By learning to collect data in real-world settings, students develop critical analytical skills that are essential for advanced sociological study and future professional work.

Developing Report Writing Skills

Another key component of field study is learning how to write research reports, a skill that is not only essential for academic success but also for various jobs in sociology and related fields. This includes:

- **Structure and Organization:** Students learn how to organize their findings in a clear and logical format, with sections such as introduction, methodology, data analysis, and conclusions.
- **Critical Analysis:** Writing reports encourages students to critically engage with their findings, evaluating the significance of the data in relation to existing sociological theory.
- **Clarity and Precision:** Sociological report writing requires clarity in presenting complex data and concepts, which is crucial for both academic and professional communication.
- **Ethical Considerations:** In field studies, students are taught how to address ethical issues in research, such as informed consent, confidentiality, and the responsibility to participants.

These report-writing skills are valuable not just for academic work but also for professional roles, such as in research institutions, NGOs, or policy-making bodies, where clear communication of findings is essential. Field studies help prepare students for the competitive world of academic and professional sociology. This is achieved by:

- **Practical Experience:** Students gain hands-on experience in collecting and analyzing data, which is invaluable in both academic and professional settings. This experience sets them apart from others who may not have had such opportunities.
- **Problem-Solving Skills:** By engaging with real-world social issues, students develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, which are highly valued in both academia and the workplace.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Through fieldwork, students interact with a variety of people, including community members, organizations, and experts. These interactions help them build professional networks that can be beneficial in their future careers.

- **Adaptability:** Students learn to adapt their research methods to the specific conditions of their fieldwork sites, making them more flexible and resourceful when faced with new challenges.

An essential skill gained through field studies is the ability to engage in dialogue with people from diverse social, cultural, and geographical backgrounds. This ability is important for:

- **Building Rapport:** Students learn how to connect with people from different walks of life, establishing trust and open communication.
- **Understanding Diverse Perspectives:** Field studies encourage students to listen and learn from people who may have different values, beliefs, or experiences, which deepens their understanding of the social world.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Engaging with diverse populations helps students become more culturally aware, allowing them to conduct research in a way that is respectful and sensitive to different social norms.

By developing these interpersonal and communication skills, students are better prepared to engage in meaningful sociological research and contribute to solving social problems in varied contexts.

Field studies serve as an invaluable component of sociological education. They provide students with the necessary tools and experiences to apply sociological methods in real-world settings, sharpen their research and report-writing skills, and prepare them for competitive academic and professional environments. By learning to navigate complex social issues through fieldwork, students also develop the empathy, cultural sensitivity, and communication skills essential for conducting impactful research and contributing to society.



Fuchka Goli, Ward No.58, Kolkata

Project work:

As per curriculum framed by affiliating University, University of Calcutta under CBCS Honours, Students of Semester - VI have to complete field study which contains a full paper of 100 marks. This field study is mandatory for all students of Semester-VI in DSE-B.

Selection of Topics: Students have scope to select topics as per their own interests of study. Sometimes, faculty members are suggesting the broad topics and were taken into account to study from the Sociological perspectives of the awareness, the effects, the reasons etc. towards different types of social issues, problems and probable solutions of the selected social topics how people will combat the issue related situations with supports from different respondents in relation to their social, cultural, economic, ethical & geographical surroundings.

Locations of field study: To fulfill the requirements as per curriculum under CBCS Honours the Department organized a survey tour for field study in different locations in and around Kolkata, West Bengal. Locations were mainly decided for comparative analysis between people residing in various geographical locations in and around Kolkata, West Bengal. These projects considered not only the above mentioned perspectives, students interacted with respondents from all religious groups, caste groups, age groups etc. Also to get significance responses towards the issues selected by them.

Objective of the field study: 1) To think and decide the topic / area of study outside from their regular curriculum but related with the curriculum.

- 11) To prepare the study materials in consultations with their group mentors.
- 12) To handle / tackle the situation if arise.
- 13) To know the interaction procedures with unknown people considering their basic interest of study during the time of survey.
- 14) To gain knowledge about hands on training.
- 15) To apply the best possible sociological methods, techniques and tools.
- 16) Framing of questionnaire.
- 17) Experience of collecting information from the field.
- 18) To know how to complete and conclude the process.
- 19) To prepare students for future higher studies or suitable jobs.

Total number of students was 19. But out of 19 students a single student was discontinued this Semester - VI.

Before going to field study students were prepared questions bank on their own and following the rule of questionnaire for survey, questions were selected by both faculty members and students.

The survey was conducted on different cultural, economic, religion, languages, and educational, environmental, community etc. sectors of people. Even the sources from where people received benefits as per situations faced by them time to time.

After completion of field survey students prepared a Data Bank considering the related parameters and attributes of respective selected topics. Data were framed and analysed by using SPSS method. Students have successfully prepared and presented their report very satisfactorily.

The basic wonder of this field study are mainly to introduce hands on training regarding the use of different sociological methods, techniques and tools which are necessarily very important for higher studies in Sociology. Not only is that field study a very meaningful parameter in any type of Sociological studies from today's perspectives. Technique of report writing is very important criterion for any field based jobs too. The goal of faculties is to equip students for competitive situations. They also enlightened themselves how to start dialogue with different people in different areas.



The team of students and teachers



Maulana Azad College Students' Week Observation, 2024

organized by Students' Support Cell
In Association With
IQAC Maulana Azad College, Kolkata.



Day 2: 3rd January 2024

Interaction with the Guardians

Time: 12 noon onwards

Venue: G3



West Bengal Student Credit Card (WBSCC) Awareness Camp

Time: 1.30 p.m. onwards Venue: Seminar Hall (First Floor)



Maulana Azad College Students' Week Observation 2024

Organized by Department of Philosophy
In Association with
IQAC Maulana Azad College, Kolkata



Day 3: Psychological Counselling: A General Awareness

Speaker: Dr. Nilanjana Bagchi
Associate Professor
Department of Psychology
Bethune College, Kolkata

Date and Time: 4th January 2024, Thursday at 12 noon; Venue: Seminar Hall (First Floor)



Maulana Azad College Students' Week Observation, 2024

organized by Department of Physics
In Association With
IQAC Maulana Azad College, Kolkata.



Day 4: 5th January 2024

Alumni Seminar: 12 noon to 1.30 p.m.

Speaker Sri Jayashish Das, SINP

Title: Non-Equilibrium Physics and Black Hole Formation

Speaker Sri Samik Dutta, Calcutta University

Title: Introduction to Λ CDM Cosmology

Speaker Sri Utkarsh Basu, RKMVERI

**Title: From Pixels to Patterns: Advanced Unsupervised
learning techniques for Galaxy classification**

Students' Seminar Presentation

Time: 1.45 p.m. onwards Venue: Physics Department



Maulana Azad College

Students' Week Observation, 2024



Organized by Science Faculty in collaboration with
IQAC, Maulana Azad College, Kolkata

Day 6: An online session on Digital Education

Speakers: Sri. Partha Pal, Dept. of Statistics
Dr. Abhishek Dey, Dept. of Physics
Dr. Ajanta Mukherji, Dept. of Chemistry

7th January, 2024

11:00 A.M. onwards

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/myc-pwde-qg