

### **Summer Workshop on Quantitative Methods in Political Science Research 2013**

**Lokniti** in collaboration with **Jain University**, Bengaluru, organised the **Summer Workshop on 'Analyzing Quantitative Data on Indian Politics'** from **2nd May 2013 to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013** at the global campus of Jain University. This was the seventh Summer School in the series of workshops and the fourth annual workshop conducted at Jain University. The first three workshops were organized in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.

Applications were invited till the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2013 from the following categories of candidates:

- Teachers of Political Science in colleges and Universities who are working on empirical subjects and would benefit from further training.
- Research students of Political Science who are working on empirical themes for their M.Phil. or Ph.D. dissertations and can benefit from further training.
- Any other person (including those from outside Political Science and outside academia) who are interested in making sense of politics by analyzing quantitative data.

We received an overwhelming response. Lokniti received Eighty five applications from candidates across the country for the limited seats available for this course. This made the selection process highly competitive. Finally twenty four candidates were chosen by a committee of Lokniti members for this Summer School. An almost equal number of female and male candidates were selected. The participants belonged to varied institutions, universities and educational backgrounds including students from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, University of Hyderabad, Jadavpur University, Calcutta University, and Guwahati University etc.

### **Resource Persons**

Some of the leading scholars working on empirical methods in Political Science have been involved in designing this summer school. The resource persons were drawn from a pool of prominent political scientists. They included:

- Pradeep Chhibber (University of California at Berkeley)
- Irfan Nooruddin (Ohio State University)
- Siddharth Swaminathan (R.K.Hegde Chair, Institute for Social and Economic Change)
- Sandeep Shastri (Jain University)
- Sanjay Kumar (CSDS)
- Reetika Syal (Jain University)
- Kinjal Sampat (Independent Scholar)
- Jyoti Mishra (Lokniti)

In the Summer School there was a special emphasis on making sense of quantitative data on Indian politics. It brings together a group of political scientists with the aim of providing them an opportunity to improve their skills in quantitative analysis. The selected participants were given a set of readings before they came to attend the workshop. The participants had to attend lectures and practical data analysis sessions. The two week residential workshop aimed at equipping young social science researchers with the skills of quantitative data analysis, focusing not merely on the statistical methods but also dilating on formulating research questions. Data from the National Election Study (2004) was used as the basis for the study. Every participant made a presentation at the end of the workshop, by choosing an appropriate research question and using the quantitative data to analyze the same.

### **Advanced Workshop**

Lokniti organised an Advanced Workshop (8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014) for those who submitted quality papers flowing from the Bengaluru workshop. It is hoped that most of these presentations will develop into full length papers that would be published in leading research journals. The resource persons included Pradeep Chibber, Siddharth Swaminathan, Reetika Syal, Rahul Verma and Jyoti Mishra.