

Reflections on the Asia-Pacific ISTR PhD Seminar

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When I started working on my PhD and landed in the field for preliminary data the real problem started from there. I was encountered with questions. Some of them were - How to avoid biasness in the field and in the process of writing research? How should I proceed in the field? How should I keep myself motivated until finishing my PhD? What to do after finishing my PhD? I struggled with these questions every day. However, I equipped myself in the field, but some of them are still unanswered.

It was my great luck to get selected for the ISTR PhD Seminar. It was my first PhD seminar and also it was my first time outside my country. I was thrilled as well as nervous. However, after attending the ISTR Asia Pacific PhD Seminar, I can say that it provided me with not only an opportunity to discuss my PhD, but also to meet like-minded researchers, as well as exploring career after PhD, and knowing contemporary research topic focused around the South Asian region.

I really loved the way the Seminar was organized. The ambiance was amiable and each researcher was made to feel comfortable while sharing the research and experience. I was given adequate time and ample space to discuss my PhD topic as well as the questions which I have faced for long. I found comments of the experts Prof. Carolyn Cordery and Prof. Bambang Shergi and peers extremely helpful. We discussed the key techniques and the processes of refining research methodology. The discussion shedding light on the objectivity and epistemological challenges has really refined my ideas.

Various sessions organized during the seminar proved to be of great utility. The session on research methodology by Prof Ruth Philips, and especially session on networking and key tips for publishing the paper by Dr. Aya Okada and Dr. Takako Nakajima respectively were very informative and helpful. Overall, we discussed several important dimensions which may be valuable for PhD students vis-a-vis a successful career.

I can say that it was one of the best conferences I have attended so far. It was not just limited to academic discussion but also presented an opportunity of knowing culture, food and people of the South Asian Region. The seminar facilitated me to understand contemporary challenges of the third sector in different aspects which impact its growth and efficiency.

Overall, ISTR Asia Pacific PhD Seminar bolstered and refined my idea. It was full for learning and knowing other cultures, collaborating with like-minded researchers and especially recalibrating for future research. Discussing my PhD topic and session on how to build networking in third sector was of countless value. My great thanks to the host CECT and ISTR for making my academic journey memorable.