

**Department of Social Work**  
**A Seminar on Research and Publishing**

***“Academic success depends on research and publication”.***

Philip Zimbardo, Psychologist and Professor Emeritus at Stanford.

Research is the outcome of our search for new knowledge. By understanding the importance of research in academic career, Department of Social Work organized a Research on *Publish or Perish: Boon or Ban*, from 2.00 to 4.15 pm on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015. *The resource person for the session was Dr. Mathew J Manimala, Professor, IIM Bangalore.* The session was open to all interested faculty members from other departments also.

While it is important for academics to perform all the three activities (Knowledge Generation, Dissemination, and Application) involved in the knowledge business, the fact is that most academics focus only on the dissemination activity, which has to change in favour of the other two as well. The primary means of generating new knowledge is to reflect on one's own experiences of the phenomenon, wherefrom theories are developed and tested. This process was illustrated by Prof. Manimala with several examples of renowned scholars as well as with personal and commonplace examples.



Once the insights are generated, they should be supported by the logic as well as the findings of prior studies and tested using the most appropriate methodology suitable for the particular research question. In other words, there should not be any rigidity about the methodology, which need not be standardized for all kinds of research. The impact of the new insights and theories can be significantly enhanced by publishing such papers in top journals, and hence researchers should aim at publishing their papers in 'A' or 'B' rated

journals, as against the common practice of Indian academics to publish mostly in the newly started open-access journals.

The interactive session that followed the presentation helped the participants to clarify many specific issues related to their own research. Ultimately, as it was repeatedly pointed out by the Professor, it is the learner's orientations and inclinations that make them reflect on their experiences in one way or the other. Hence the Professor administered a psychological inventory (the Learning Style Inventory), which helped the participants to understand their own inclinations and learning styles. The session got extended beyond the scheduled time for accommodating participants' questions.