

## REPORT ON THE LECTURE SERIES

**Delivered by:** Dr. Prachi Bansal (O.P. Jindal Global University)

**Date:** 8 December 2025

The Post Graduate Department of Economics, University of Kashmir, initiated an ongoing **Lecture Series by Dr. Prachi Bansal**, Assistant Professor at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy (JSGP), O.P. Jindal Global University. The series is designed to strengthen the research capacity of postgraduate students and research scholars, with a focus on practical research tools, project development, proposal writing and evidence-based academic practices. The initial lectures of the series were held on **8 December 2025** in the **Conference Hall, Department of Economics**, and drew active participation from faculty members, scholars and students across programmes.

The first lecture of the series, titled **“Crafting Competitive Grant Applications: From Ideas to Fundable Projects,”** was held at 10:30 AM. Dr. Bansal began by highlighting the importance of competitive research funding in contemporary academic life and explained how well-crafted proposals can open pathways to innovative work, field-based studies and collaborations. She elaborated on the broader landscape of grant-making institutions, evaluation criteria and expectations of funding bodies. Through detailed discussion, she explained how a research idea must evolve into a logically structured proposal with a clear problem statement, strong rationale, suitable methodology and feasible work plan. She also emphasised the importance of budgeting, timelines and ethical considerations. Participants benefited from her explanations regarding common mistakes in proposal writing, including weak justification, unclear objectives and improper structuring. The session concluded with a lively discussion in which students and scholars sought guidance on selecting funding agencies, structuring budgets and refining research questions, and Dr. Bansal responded with practical examples from her own experience.

The second lecture held on the same day at 2:30 PM was titled **“Primary Fieldwork in Practice: Building Robust Tools with KoboToolbox.”** This session marked a shift towards field-based methodological training. Dr. Bansal introduced KoboToolbox as an accessible, open-source digital platform extensively used for data collection in development and humanitarian contexts. She walked the participants through the process of creating digital questionnaires, deploying survey forms and managing collected data. Emphasising the importance of rigorous groundwork in primary data collection, she explained how

questionnaire design, sequencing of questions, use of skip logic and on-field testing determine the quality and reliability of data. Drawing from her field experiences, she discussed the challenges encountered during fieldwork—such as technological limitations, respondent hesitation and enumerator bias—and shared practical strategies to overcome them without compromising the integrity of research. The interactive segment of the lecture allowed students and faculty to seek clarifications on remote data collection, accuracy monitoring and adapting KoboToolbox for different types of research settings.

Together, these initial lectures set the academic tone for the broader **Lecture Series by Dr. Prachi Bansal**, which will continue in the coming days. The sessions delivered so far have provided participants with both conceptual clarity and practical insight, bridging the gap between research planning and field implementation. The Department of Economics expresses its appreciation to Dr. Bansal for her engaging and enriching contributions and looks forward to the continuation of the series in the subsequent lectures.