

# LANSA RESEARCH UPTAKE REFLECTIVE PRACTICE STORY

Communicating research  
with innovative tools

Strengthening capacity of researchers to document  
using video and visually present data for audiences

Enhancing the research uptake capacity among consortium members is an uptake objective as laid out in the LANSAs research uptake strategy in the inception report. At MSSRF, the research uptake team has conducted several tailor-made capacity strengthening workshops for LANSAs staff since 2014.

A needs assessment survey was conducted in 2016 using Google Forms tool and researchers expressed the need to receive training on visualising data using interactive methods to engage with audiences.

The assessment also indicated that researchers were interested in video documentation but were not confident of using a camera. Questions were posed to gauge their knowledge and confidence levels, and also the usefulness of receiving training on data visualisation and videography.

## Telling a story using data tools

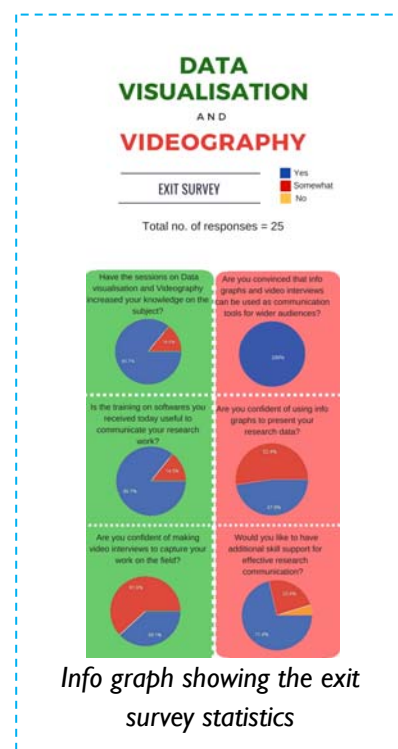
Researchers from other departments at MSSRF were also invited to participate in the half-day workshop in August 2016. There were 25 participants including 14 members of the LANSAs team.

Hands-on training was imparted to help researchers present data using simple, easy-to-use infograph tools. This included free software such as Canva, Giphy and Animaker and the advantages of each was explained to the participants. Time was allowed for the participants to practice the tools using their own data and present the information using infographics. This exercise gave them a feel of how research could be communicated in interesting and innovative ways to attract audience attention.

## Capturing stories from the field

Workshop participants also received training and tips on how to use a camera for still photography as well as videography. Photo composition, light, white space, capturing movement and balancing the frame were discussed. LANSAs Research Uptake offered this training since MSSRF has an ongoing action research FSN feasibility study in two field sites in India.

Ethical considerations and responsibilities, bias and unintentional objectification aspects in still photography and video documentation were explained to the participants. Guidance on how to plan a photo shoot as well as tips on setting up for video documentation were shared. The participants were also given a set of resources and links to free software, to help them capture stories / interviews from the field.



### HIGHLIGHTS:

*86% of the participants expressed that the session had equipped them to communicate their research in a better manner.*

## The Results

The Data Visualisation and Videography workshop proved effective and researchers have begun to use the infographic tools to communicate their data at conferences and seminars. An exit survey at the end of the session found eighty six per cent of the participants expressing that the session had equipped them to communicate their research in a better manner. Seventy one per cent requested follow-up support to further strengthen their capacity. MSSRF LANSAs field staffs have begun to shoot interviews from the field for documentation and dissemination purposes on the LANSAs website.

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