



PRAYoG

Promoting Research Among Youth of Goa
Initiative for research ready undergraduates

An Initiative by the Centre for Research
Development & Innovation (RDI)
Directorate of Higher Education,
Government of Goa

Message from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa



It gives me great pleasure to know about the launch of PRAYoG – Promoting Research Among Youth of Goa, an important initiative of the Directorate of Higher Education. This programme reflects our Government's strong commitment to strengthening the culture of research, innovation, and academic excellence across the state.

In today's knowledge-driven world, research plays a vital role in shaping informed, responsible, and forward-looking citizens. Encouraging undergraduate students to engage in research at an early stage helps develop critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and a scientific temper. Through PRAYoG, students are being provided with the right guidance, exposure, and skills to understand research methods and apply their learning to real-life challenges.

Our vision for Goa is to build a knowledge-based, inclusive, and future-ready society. We aim to empower our youth with quality education, strong research foundations, and innovative thinking so that they can contribute meaningfully to local development as well as national progress. Initiatives such as PRAYoG play a crucial role in nurturing young minds, strengthening academic standards, and creating a culture of inquiry across higher education institutions.

I commend the Centre for Research, Development and Innovation at Directorate of Higher Education, for taking this forward-looking step. I am confident that PRAYoG will inspire students to explore new ideas, pursue excellence, and emerge as responsible contributors to Goa's growth and development.

I extend my best wishes to all students, faculty members, and institutions participating in this initiative.

Dr. Pramod Sawant
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa

Message from the Hon'ble Education Secretary



I am pleased to note the launch of PRAYoG – Promoting Research Among Youth of Goa, a timely and forward-looking initiative of the Directorate of Higher Education. This programme represents an important step towards strengthening the foundation of research and innovation within higher education institutions across the State.

Introducing undergraduate students to research at an early stage is essential for developing critical thinking, analytical skills, and a spirit of inquiry. PRAYoG provides students with structured guidance and exposure to research methods, enabling them to connect classroom learning with real-world challenges and practical problem-solving.

As Goa moves towards becoming a knowledge-driven and future-ready society, nurturing a strong research culture among youth remains a key priority. Initiatives such as PRAYoG will play a vital role in enhancing academic standards, encouraging innovation, and empowering students to contribute meaningfully to the State and the nation.

I extend my best wishes to all students, faculty members, PRAYoG Mentors and institutions participating in PRAYoG.

-Prasad Lolayekar (IAS)
Secretary (Education)

Message from Director



It gives me great pleasure to introduce PRAYoG, an initiative that reflects our commitment to fostering a vibrant and future-ready academic environment across the higher education landscape of Goa. Research is not only for scholars and scientists, it is a way of thinking, of questioning the world around us. When students at the undergraduate level are given the right guidance, tools, and encouragement, they can contribute meaningfully to knowledge creation and problem-solving in society. Through PRAYoG, we aim to bring research closer to our students, expose the process, and help them begin their research journey with clarity and confidence. I congratulate the Centre for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) for leading this much-needed effort and encourage all colleges to take full advantage of this opportunity. Let us remember that research need not be rocket science every time—how we observe day-to-day problems and work toward practical solutions can also lead to meaningful contributions. Let us work together to create a strong culture of inquiry, creativity, and academic excellence in Goa.

Bhushan Savaikar

Director, Directorate of Higher Education, Goa

Introduction to the Scheme

PRAYoG (Promoting Research Amongst Young Goa Scholars) is a flagship initiative of the Centre for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) under the Government of Goa, designed to build a strong foundation of research awareness and skills among undergraduate students in the state. While research at the undergraduate level is encouraged by various institutions, there is often a gap in understanding the core principles of identifying researchable problems, research methodology, data collection, and academic writing. This results in student projects that may lack depth or follow incorrect methods.

PRAYoG aims to bridge this gap by offering series of, on-campus, stream-specific training sessions for students of Arts, Commerce, and Science streams. These sessions will be practical, interactive, and guided by subject experts. They are tailored to each discipline, ensuring that students receive relevant and focused knowledge. This program is also flexible. If a college feels their students need extra help in any specific area of research, they can request a special session. These sessions can be on topics that are useful for students and will be planned with the help of experts from the center for RDI at DHE.

Through this initiative, the RDI Centre not only supports skill development but also seeks to nurture a research mindset, encouraging students to think critically, ask meaningful questions, and begin their journey into the world of inquiry and innovation.

Objectives



1) To provide stream-specific foundational training on Research Methodology, literature survey and Research Methods for UG students of Arts, Commerce, Science and other disciplines in Goa's Higher Educational Institutions.

2) To give students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of specific research topics through special sessions, based on their learning needs and interests.



3) To improve quality of research at Undergraduate level and contribute to the publication in reputed journals.

Programme Structure (Per College)

- 1) Total Duration per College: 3 Phases by end of December 2025
- 3) No. of Students per session : Max 60 students
- 4) Mode: In-person (on college campus)

Arts & Humanities

- Understanding Qualitative Research
- Framing a Research Question
- Data Collection Methods (interviews, fieldwork)
- Referencing (MLA/Chicago)

Focus Areas by Stream

Science, Medicine & Engineering

- Scientific Methodology
Experimental Design
- Hypothesis Formulation
- Lab and Field Data Collection
Techniques
- Scientific Report Writing

Commerce

- **Research in Business and Social Sciences**
- **Quantitative Techniques & Surveys**
- **Data Analysis using Excel/SPSS**
- **APA Style Referencing**

Special Thematic Sessions (Optional): A special session on a specific research-related topic like SPSS training, qualitative interview techniques, plagiarism tools, citation managers, etc. can be conducted upon request from college. Contact the RDI Coordinator to schedule a custom thematic talk.

College Responsibilities



1. Nominate 1 member from R&D Cell as coordinator.
2. Arrange Classrooms for parallel sessions on a day.
3. Provide Projector and Whiteboard for each venue
4. Facilitate attendance tracking and student registration
5. Distribute and collect feedback forms (template provided)
6. Provide basic logistics and hospitality for resource persons

Colleges may choose to:

- Request expert resource persons from the Centre for Research, Development & Innovation (RDI) at DHE by registering and booking a slot.

OR

- R&D Cell of college can identify and invite a suitable resource person, subject to prior submission of details to the Directorate of Higher Education and approval before proceeding.

Summary Timeline

Month	Activity
July–Aug*	Phase 1: Research Methodology & Literature Search
Sept–Oct	Phase 2: i) Research Methods & Data Analysis ii) Proposal Mentoring
Oct–Dec	Phase 3: Research Report Writing and Publication (if feasible)

*As this program is launched in August 2025, in the academic year 2025–2026, Phase 1 can be extended until September 2025.

Outcome

- Improved project quality, original thinking, and documentation
- Stronger research habits and analytical skills
- Recognition for best student research work in Goa

Team PRAYoG

The PRAYoG initiative is led and coordinated by the Centre for Research, Development & Innovation (RDI) at the Directorate of Higher Education (DHE), Goa, with a commitment to guiding students and faculty through every stage of the undergraduate research process.

- Prof. Mahesh Majik - Professor, Research Development & Innovation
- Prof. Vithal Tilvi - Professor, Research Development & Innovation
- Ms. Niti T. Naik - Assistant Professor, Research Development & Innovation

Faculty members from any college or university in Goa are encouraged to contact the PRAYoG coordination team for guidance, mentoring, or assistance in planning and conducting training sessions, as well as for support in identifying suitable resource persons or research-related tools for final-year undergraduate projects.

Way Forward

PRAYoG represents a significant step toward fostering a robust, research-oriented academic culture in Goa. All Higher Education Institutions are encouraged to actively participate in this initiative, while faculty members are invited to utilise this structured support to mentor students, enhance the quality of final-year projects, and contribute to addressing local, national, and global challenges through research.

Managing Committee



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