

KEYNOTE SPEECH OF PROFESSOR N. JAYANTHA DEWASIRI



It is honoured to address you as the keynote speaker at the 8th Interdisciplinary Conference of Management Researchers (ICMR 2023), hosted by the Faculty of Management Studies at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. The robust response from domestic and international submissions to the call for papers attests to the enthusiasm surrounding this conference's theme. Today, I am delighted to engage with you on a critical topic that resonates with the conference's theme:

"Moving Beyond Conventional Wisdom in Management Research through Innovations."

Conventional wisdom, derived from past experiences or prevalent opinions, often shapes our understanding of management research. However, challenging these norms is paramount for progress. For instance, while some argue that paradigmatic differences hinder mixing research methods, pragmatists believe in an overarching paradigm, enabling innovative approaches in management-related research. Hence, it is still possible to make innovations in management-related research challenging traditional wisdom. Innovations in management research involve several key steps, including staying up-to-date with the latest research. There are several ways to make innovations in management-related research, some of which include:

- Collaborate with experts from other fields: Management-related research often involves a range of disciplines, from psychology and neuroscience to sociology and management. Collaborating with experts from different fields can help to generate new insights and approaches to studying management behaviour and cognition.
- Use new research methods and technologies: Most management-related issues are abstract concepts, making them difficult to define and study. Hence, it is suggested that further research methods and technologies, such as triangulation, design thinking, AI integration, and longitudinal studies, be applied as they provide different ways to investigate a particular problem in management-related research. This can involve using new data analysis techniques, experimenting with new study designs, or new technologies such as virtual reality or brain imaging. Technology catalyses advancing research methodologies, enabling more profound insights and comprehensive analysis.

- Focus on diversity and inclusivity: Management-related research should strive to be inclusive and representative of diverse populations. It means considering race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and socioeconomic status in research design and analysis. By taking an inclusive approach, researchers can generate new insights into how human behaviour and cognition vary across different populations.

- Prioritize ethical considerations: Management-related research can significantly impact people's lives, so it's essential to prioritize ethical considerations in all aspects of the research process. This includes obtaining informed consent from study participants, ensuring participant safety and privacy, and avoiding research practices that could harm or exploit vulnerable populations.

Overall, making innovations in management-related research requires a combination of curiosity, creativity, and attention to detail, as well as a commitment to staying current with the latest research and using innovative approaches and technologies to tackle complex questions. I urge you to embrace innovation in your research endeavours, challenging the status quo and striving for groundbreaking discoveries.

Last, I congratulate all the paper presenters and the conference team for a triumphant accomplishment. The delegates will undoubtedly keep fond recollections of the conference with them.

Warm regards,

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