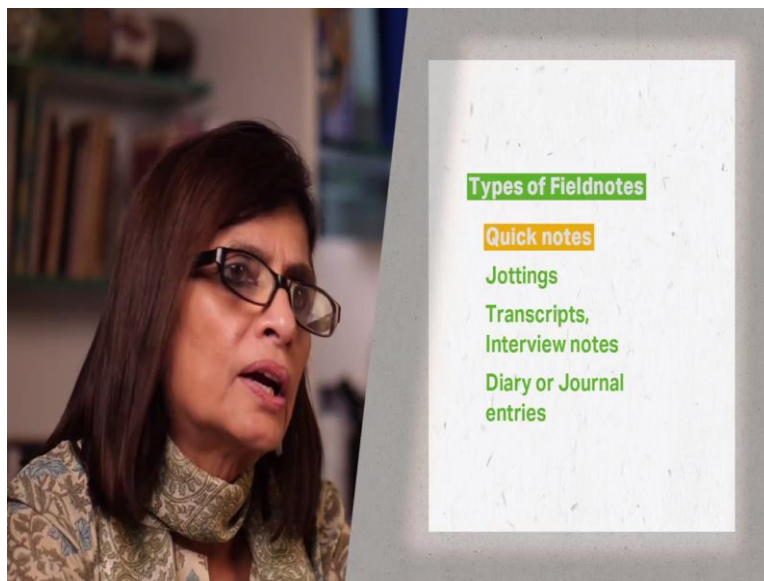
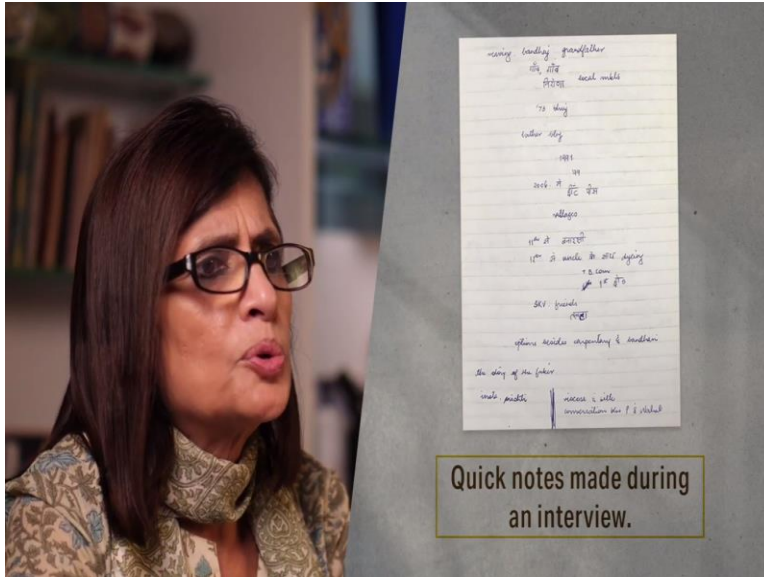


Understanding Ethnography
Conclusion: Types of Ethnographic Records
Lecture No 7

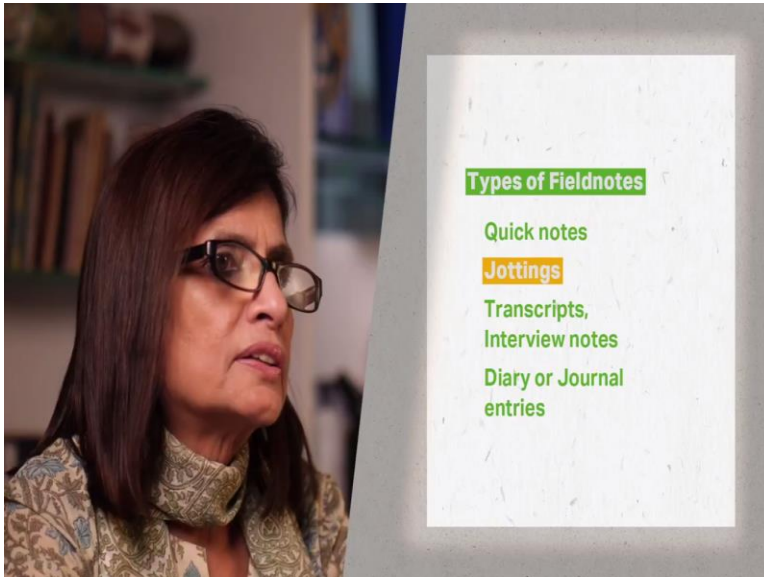
Now we come to our discussion on the different forms of fieldnotes. There are also plenty of text-based as well as non-textual modes of recording. Besides written notes, we can make audio visual records, such as video or film, audio recordings, photography, drawing, and so on. We will discuss these in much greater detail in our subsequent modules. For now, we will focus on written ethnographic records or fieldnotes.

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Quick notes made during an interview.



Types of Fieldnotes

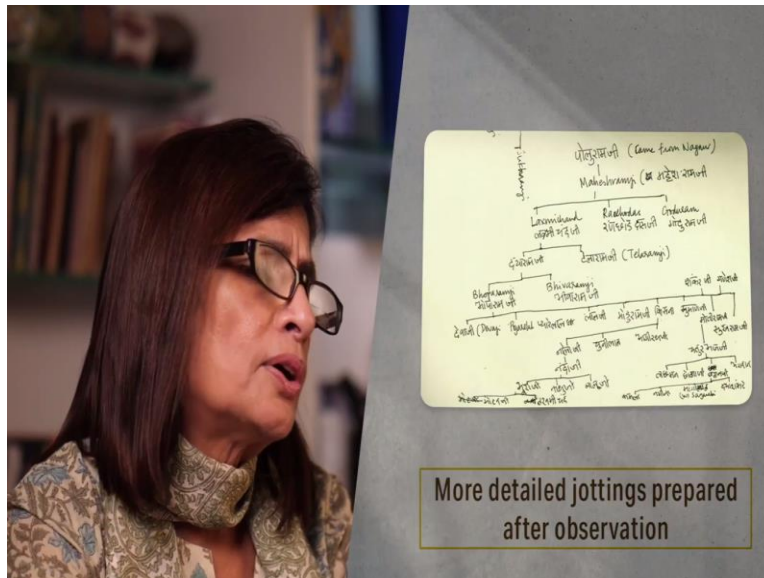
Quick notes

Jottings

Transcripts,
Interview notes

Diary or Journal
entries

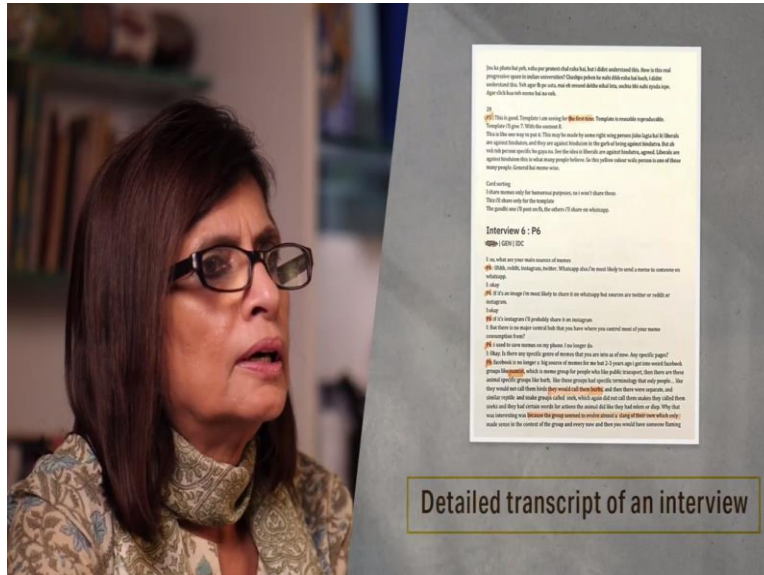
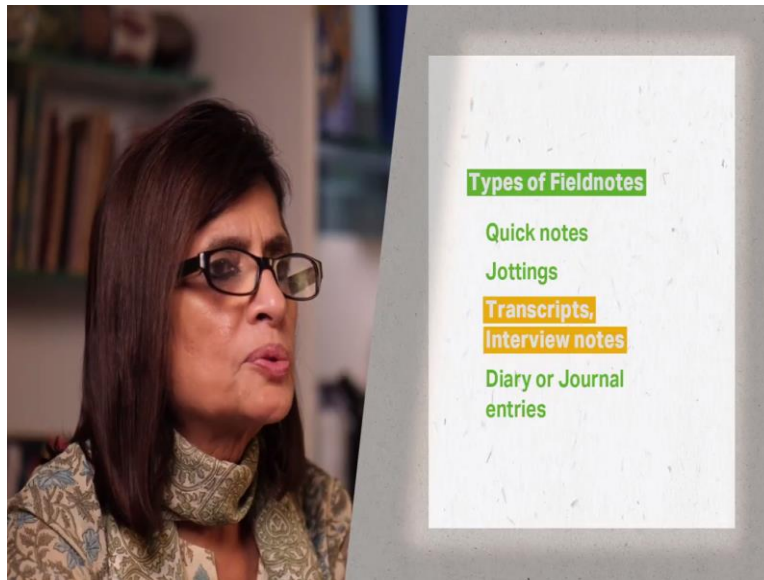
Types of Fieldnotes



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Note-taking for fieldwork can take three different forms. Quick notes are notes written down quickly as we observe. These are quick points which we write down in the form of keywords or key phrases using them later as references to build more elaborate descriptions. This latter kind of description which is mostly a detailed telling of the who, what why, when, etc, of the observed event are called jottings. Often ethnographers include in the jottings, an initial understanding of what they observed, thoughts, concepts and ideas that occur to them as they write and reflect on the events of the day. These are often known as Fieldnotes.

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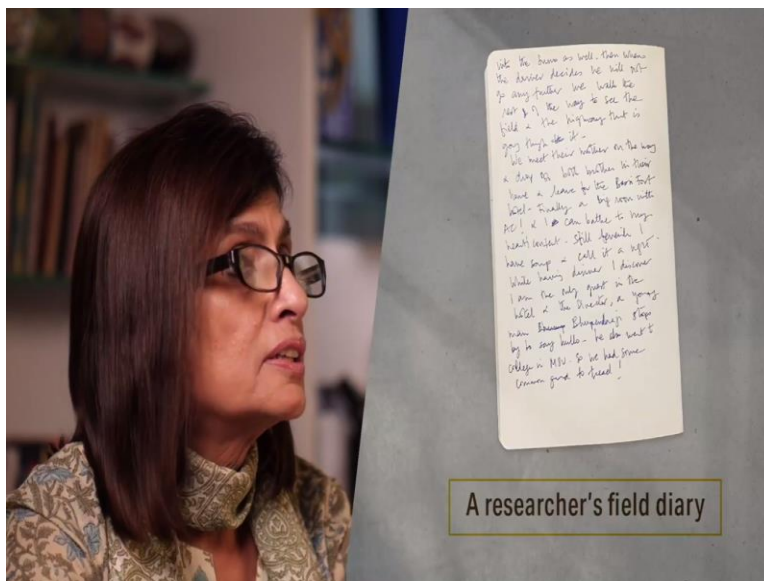
Then there are Transcripts, which are word by word text records of spoken interviews. These may or may not include translations depending on the language used by the participants, or the researcher and the expected audience. In these the tone of voice the particular phrases used, the actions that accompany the speaking become important as offering a certain context to the spoken word. This and other additional material gleaned from observation, during or around an interview form what might be called Interview notes.

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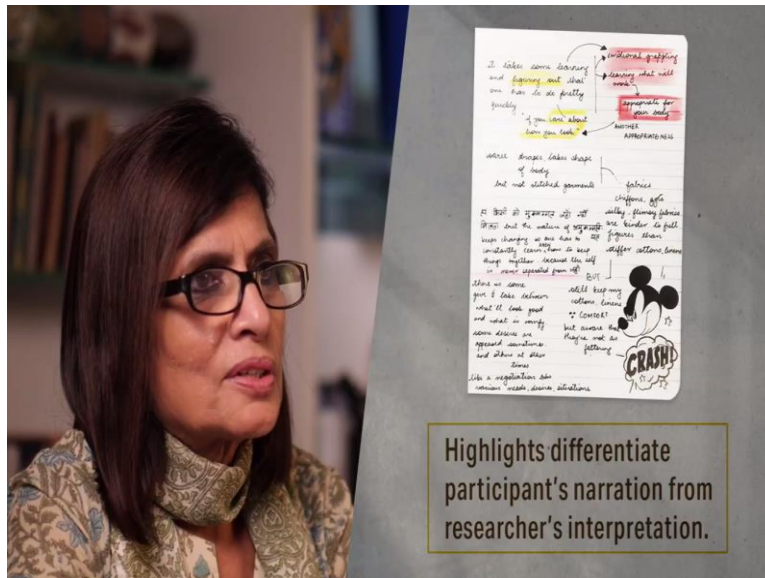
Types of Fieldnotes

- Quick notes
- Jottings
- Transcripts,
Interview notes
- Diary or Journal
entries**



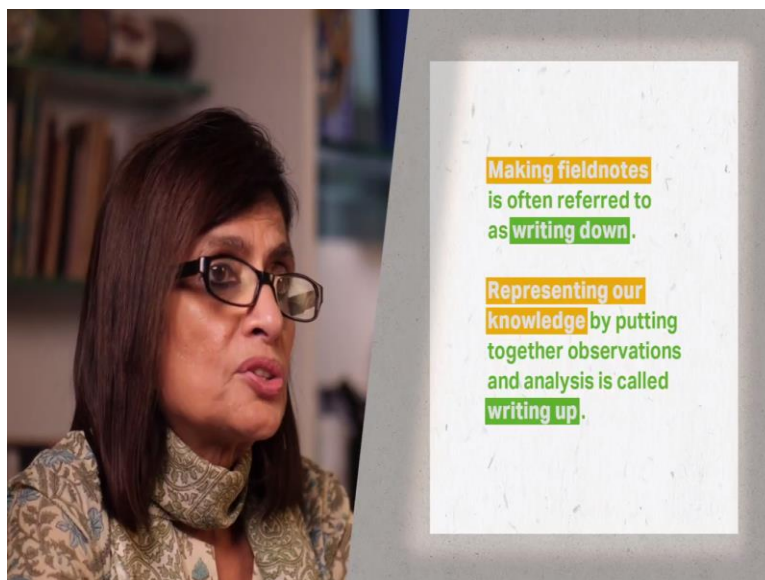
Wife has been so well. Then when
the doctor decides he will not
go any further we will take
her to the way to see the
field - the highway that is
going through it -
will meet them further on the way
a day ago both brother in law
had a house for the Barn Fort
and - finally a big room with
AC! I can better to my
heart's content - Still Agatha I
have long - call it a night
While having dinner I discover
I am the only guest in the
hall at the dinner, a young
man - (Bharat Singh) - I
by the way he - he also went to
college in Noida - he had some
Urdu given to read.

A researcher's field diary



Field and Interview notes might also contribute to, or expand into the ethnographer's diary or journal. This journal is a kind of a monologue that we have with ourselves, where we try to describe our observations like in our field notes, but may focus more on our questions, our confusions, some initial concepts and emerging connections. In writing our notes, whether they are quick notes, jottings, or more elaborate diary entries, it is important to be clearly differentiate between what we observed and our interpretation of it.

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Recording is one aspect of writing in ethnographic practice. The other is writing as representation, where we try to put together our observations interpretation and analysis to

present the knowledge we have constructed through the research process. This aspect of ethnographic writing will be discussed later in our course. And with this, we conclude our module. This module has been our passage into ethnographic fieldwork.

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We have covered some important topics, Observation, Types of observation, What to observe, Participant Observation, Degrees of participation, Limits of Participation, Ethnographic Records. These are all different ways in which we engage with our participants gathering information through fieldwork. But it is not always enough to observe. Sometimes we need the help of our participants in interpreting what we have observed. Sometimes we need to understand their perspectives in their own words.

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For this, we use Interviews and Conversations, and that forms the focus of our next module. We hope to see you there and continue this journey.