

Necessity of Enhancement of Research Environment for Under-Graduate College Students in Social Sciences

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Abstract

Social sciences unlike the natural sciences are the ones that concern the study of the events occurring in the society. The history and trends of research witness that the researches in social sciences are less encouraged than the researches in natural sciences. Society is a complex whole where every hour several positive and negative events keep taking place. Some of them are positive in the sense that they bring welfare and development to the society and its people, while some others of them are negative as they bring problems to the people of the society. Every event occurring in the society needs to be studied, understood and controlled. It can be possible only through the development of the passion and skill of research in the scholars of social sciences.

Research is an inseparable part of higher education. It opens new vistas in every walk of life. Without research innovations are impossible. Research must be compulsory for all the college and university students. Every college student wishes to build up his career and to prove himself by joining some good institution. Every institute whether private or government, has its own problems relating to students, staff, management, administration etc. Moreover, the students of the colleges and universities have a particular liability to study the various social problems that occur in the society. The undergraduate and the postgraduate training programmes require an immediate brainstorming improvisation with special attention to integrate research into the curriculum. Hence, some paper of research must be there in the curriculum.

The paper highlights the scenario of teaching social sciences in the colleges and universities, the scholars' indifference to research for several reasons, necessity of research for the sake of the understanding of the social problems that keep occurring in the society every hour.

Keywords: Social Sciences, Intellectual Stuff, Bone of Higher Education, Stimulator of New Ideas, Globalized World, Scientific Method

Introduction

Eversince research has been the passion of man. It is his natural instinct to have a curiosity for the things unknown to him, to explore the unexplored and to control the phenomenon accordingly. Research being an intellectual food for the scholars of the colleges and the universities. It is the bone of higher education without which the higher education is meaningless. It stimulates new ideas in the mind of the scholars. At present when there are discussions in favour of the globalized world, research becomes more important than earlier. It is only through research that the global problems can be understood and turned for the benefit of the global world.

Research initiation in colleges and universities in India is the utmost demand of time, as without joining the field of research the college and university students cannot prove their multi-faceted potential. Research links up the students with the world and with globalized trends. It equally helps the students understand the social phenomena scientifically and to interpret the cause and effect relationship of the studied event and problem. Most of the colleges and universities in Rajasthan lack the proper research environment, and much is to be done in this field for the betterment of the students. Research is an inseparable part of the college life, hence, it should be promoted both at the UG and the PG levels. To be familiar with the unknown and to explore the unexplored has ever been the passion of man. Research is a panacea to every challenge and problem

whatever it is, and it can help one solve any problem through constant exploration. Research aims at exploring the unknown, systematically studying the social phenomena and interpreting the cause and effect relationship of the problem.

Research: An Inseparable Organ of Higher Education

Research is an inseparable part of higher education. Every college student wishes to build up his career and to prove himself by joining some good institution. Every institute whether private or government, has its own problems relating to students, staff, management, administration etc. Moreover, the students of the colleges and universities have a particular liability to study the various social problems that occur in the society. The undergraduate and the postgraduate training programmes require an immediate brain-storming improvisation with special attention to integrate research into the curriculum. All institutes should establish a research and development centre with competent professionals and latest equipment for basic research at the doorstep for young students having an inclination toward research. Hence, in order to associate research with higher education, it is essential to nurture and promote research for the sake of the better understanding the society. Passion for research not only updates the teachers and the students, but it also enhances the teaching-learning environment in colleges.

Scenario of Teaching Social Sciences in the Colleges

The current teaching-learning scenario of social sciences in the colleges reveals that the teachers find themselves content in finishing the syllabus superficially. At the depth of every topic prescribed in the syllabus there is much that can be grasped only through a rich taste for research. Then beyond the syllabus there is much to be learnt both by the teachers and the students. In fact, every social problem associated with the social sciences whether positive or negative is the subject matter of research, and it is the moral duty of the teachers of the various social sciences to make the students familiar with what is happening around them, and to motivate them to pursue research in order to study the causes and effects of the problems. The ongoing trend of the teaching of the social sciences in most of the colleges in India reveals a horrible picture of research that the students practically fail to undertake any research work.

The worth and identity of a higher educational institute depends mainly on its teaching-learning environment. Undoubtedly, all the teachers in colleges and universities are rich in their scholastic wisdom and are giving successfully what their institutional limitations allow them to supply to the students. However, they can do much better than what they are doing at present, and can give much more to the society than what they are giving if they are promoted for constant research through mandatory classroom seminars, national and international conferences, minor and major research

projects, research paper presentation at the national and international conferences.

Need of Research Initiation in the Colleges for The Students of Social Sciences

In U.P. there are hundreds of colleges, but it is shocking to note that the students and teachers of various social sciences in most of them are cut off from research. The reason is that there is no mandatory policy of post- research for the faculty members and of research for the students at the UG level in particular; they fail to provide research facilities required for research; they lack the environment of research. It is the demand of time that there must be the initiation for research for the students and the teachers of social sciences in every small and big college. It is believed strongly and unanimously that the research initiation in colleges can open vistas of career for the students and can provide an opportunity to the faculty members to prove their research potential. The problem is that in most of the colleges in U.P., only UG courses are there, and the lecturers fail to get the status of research guides just because they don't have the teaching experience of PG classes required for the eligibility of the research guides. In such a condition many of the lecturers in U.P. fail to undertake any research.

Objectives of the Study

1. To observe the scenario of the teaching of various social sciences in the colleges of Allahabad.
2. To be familiar with the teaching methods adopted by the teachers in the colleges to teach social sciences
3. To study the causes of the indifference of the teachers and the students to research
4. To learn about the ways adopted by the college teachers to link the students with the world of research
5. To have an idea of the students' bent of mind to research at the graduation level
6. To be familiar with the facilities in the college that can help the students pursue research
7. To learn about the research activities in social sciences conducted in the colleges
8. To know about the availability of the research cell in the colleges
9. To find out about the publications associated with the colleges
10. To brood over and need of the initiation of research in social sciences for the college students
11. To draw the attention of the policy makers at the college and university level to create a healthy environment of research in social sciences
12. To study and interpret the cause and effect relationship of the subject, and to interpret the role of the social scientists in generating the possibilities in the field of various social sciences.

Review of Literature

Kuh's (2008) ten high-impact practices include undergraduate research specifically, however a 'students as researchers' pedagogy could be

adopted as a vehicle to develop each of the ten practices.

Healey and Jenkins (2009, p. 3) argue: "All undergraduate students in all higher education institutions should experience learning through, and about, research and inquiry." For this to be possible it can only occur if the experiences are integrated into the curriculum (Jenkins and Healey 2012).

Anderson and Priest, 2014 comment that students as researchers' are an active pedagogy emphasising the process of undergraduate research and inquiry. Undergraduate research in this style may include ways of promoting research-teaching linkages by developing students' appreciation of research in the discipline. It can also involve using teaching and learning approaches which simulate research processes and using assignments which involve research or elements of the research process; giving students first-hand experience of research based consultancy e.g. through live projects

Gershenfeld (2014) carried out a systematic literature review in the United States of the impact of undergraduate research programmes and highlighted the range of contexts in which mentoring relationships are negotiated.

Rajni, Rajesh and Charan Suresh (2016). In all the colleges and universities, research initiation should be made for the sake of the enhancement of the research environment in colleges and universities.

Hypothesis

1. The number of the students in various social sciences is much higher than in the natural sciences at the undergraduate and post graduate levels
2. Each of the social sciences is research oriented and has possibilities of research
3. The chief concern of the social science teachers at the under graduate level is to teach the topics prescribed in the syllabus through lecture method
4. Research facilities for the under graduate in social science students in the colleges are not available
5. Classroom seminars, national and international conferences are rarely organized
6. Most of the colleges lack the healthy research environment, research cells and research facilities required for the conduction of research
7. Both the teachers and the students are indifferent to research
8. The under graduate students are not considered fit for research making
9. The University Grants Commission does not promote and encourage research at the undergraduate level for the students of various social sciences and humanities.
10. The globally fast changing complex social phenomena can be understood only through the encouragement, promotion and enhancement of research in social sciences at the college level.

Research Methodology

With the sample size of an aggregate of 50% and conducted on the 40 units (Teachers in various social science teachers) selected randomly 10 each from Govt. RD Girls' College, Bharatpur,

Agrasen Girls' College, Bharatpur, Govt. Girls' College, Dholpur and Vivekanand Girls' College, Dholpur, the study is empirical. For the purpose, both the primary and the secondary data were used. Through the schedule technique and through the internet sites and journals, the secondary data were collected. The study was made in perfect observation following all the steps of social research prescribed by the eminent social scientists.

Key Findings

1. The paper of research must be compulsory for all the undergraduate students (40 units).
2. The paper of Research Methodology should be divided into two parts- theory and practical. It can ensure not only the regular attendance of the students but also enhance the research environment (37 units).
3. It must be mandatory for the undergraduate students to make at least one empirical study on any relevant subject every year (23 units)
4. Every college teacher should be allowed to act as a research guide (29 units).
5. In every college, there must be a research forum, and it should work in order to create a healthy research environment in the college and to maintain the record of the completed research works and of the research works in progress (39 units).
6. The Principals and the other governing authorities should motivate the college teachers to regularly submit research proposals for projects and to present papers at the national and international conferences, and to get the papers published in some refereed journals (26 units).
7. The colleges should have their own refereed and peer-reviewed journals with ISSN and ISBN numbers, and should encourage the teaching faculties and the students to write research papers on the relevant contemporary social issues and to get them published in the parent-journals (18 units).
8. The topics to be taught in the classrooms should be taught in the present context so that the students may realize their relevance in the present context (31 units).
9. Increments of the college teachers should be conditional on the basis of their contribution to the field of research (34 units).
10. The thesis and research papers should be available in the college library for the students (21 units).
11. There should be a sufficient funding for the publication of the research works (21 units).
12. It must be mandatory on the part of the college teachers to make the presentation of their research papers and the findings of their minor and major research projects before the students (21 units).
13. In order to make the students familiar with the latest ongoing trends in the field of social sciences, the teaching of the various social science subjects should be made through projectors and power point presentations (18 units).

14. At both the graduation level, the paper of dissertation must be compulsory for the students (31 units).
15. In order to bring the students closer to the spirit of research, there must be arranged class-room seminars on the relevant contemporary inter-disciplinary social issues, and every student should be provided an opportunity to present some research paper in them. For it, there should be an arrangement of marks to be entered in the mark-sheet (22 units).
16. From time-to-time, the eminent visiting professors from the parent-university and other institutes and universities should be invited to deliver lectures (17 units).
17. Every year the outstanding research works of the students and the teaching faculties should be awarded (30 units).
18. Inter-disciplinary research should be promoted in the colleges so that the involvement of more and more teaching faculties and students may be ensured (19 units).
19. Each institute should have a Department of Statistics to guide proper research methodologies and empower principles of statistics to the faculty and students (18 units).
20. Every college should give the first priority to the enhancement of research, and for it the teachers should be allowed sufficient fund and leave (17 units).

Conclusion

Considering research the utmost need of time and the capabilities of the social science students at under graduate level, research in the field of social sciences should be encouraged for the sake of the study of the fast changing social phenomena. It can be possible through the initiatives of the government and University Grants Commission. The mind of the student at the under graduate level is very receptive. Hence, considering them worthy for research, they should be linked with research. This revolutionary step of the government can help in the understanding the social problems occurring around us. Research needs desire, competence, determination, time and money. If a person has all these things with him, he can be successful in the field of research. Obviously, the social science students at the under graduate level have all this to go ahead in the field of research.

If such measures of research are adopted seriously for the sake of research enhancement in social sciences, through the collective endeavour and contribution of both the teachers and the students in colleges can bring about a revolution in the field of research.

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