

Research Initiation in Colleges & Application of Research in Enhancing Teaching-Learning Environment in Colleges (With Special References to the Government Colleges in Rajasthan)

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: Research Initiation, Enhancing, Panacea, Cause and Effect Relationship, Brain Storming

Introduction

Research is the soul of higher education. Through research the scholars interpret the cause and effect relationship of the events that occur in the world, and thus, attempt to study and observe the problems scientifically. Since times immemorial research and higher education have been complementary to each other. However, the current scenario of higher education witnesses the lack of research potential in the college and university students and professors. Indeed, there is a horrible deterioration in the field of research. For the sake of enhancement in the research environment and for the inclination of the students and teachers to research, there is essentially required a planned research initiation programme for every college and university in India, and an active participation of all the students and teachers should be ensured through the organization of the conferences and seminars, research paper presentation at the conferences, publication of research papers, minor and major research projects meant for the teachers etc. The initiation of research in colleges and universities can prove itself to be a panacea to study all the problems scientifically. It is only through research initiation that the scholars can explore the unexplored and know the unknown things.

Meaning & Aims of Research

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 of the society.

Impact of Research on Teaching-Learning Environment

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 what they are giving if they are promoted for constant research through mandatory organization of national and international seminars and conferences, minor and major research projects, mandatory research paper presentation at the national and international conferences. Passion for research not only updates the teachers and the students, but it also enhances the teaching-learning environment in colleges.

The Current Scenario of Teaching Sociology in the Colleges of Rajasthan

The current teaching-learning scenario in the colleges of Rajasthan 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, the entire society is the subject matter of research, and it is the moral duty of the teachers to make the students familiar with what is happening around them through the reference to the researches being done in the various fields. In most of the universities in Rajasthan, there is prescribed the theory paper of research methodology at the post graduation level for the students, but practical exam facility is not there. As a result, the students practically fail to undertake any research work.

Need of Research Initiation in the Colleges of Rajasthan

In Rajasthan there are hundreds of colleges, but it is shocking to note that the students and teachers in most of them are cut off from research. The reason is that there is no mandatory policy of research for the faculty members and for students; 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 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 Rajasthan 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 Rajasthan fail to undertake any research.

Areas to be Included in Research & The Application of Research

Health, personality development, education, morality, institutions, social groups, social control, social change, socialization, religion etc. are some of the areas that may be included in research by the social scientists. The application of research is equally important. The findings of the various researches should be shared with the students and others associated with the theme of the undertaken research. They should also be published. If such measures of research are adopted seriously for the sake of research enhancement the faculties in colleges can bring about a revolution in the field of research by their own endeavor and by their valuable guidance to the scholars. It can definitely help the government make policies to root out the problems and to understand the social phenomena.

Conclusion

For a proper initiation of the research in the colleges and universities, the following things are essential-

1. Every college and university teacher with a teaching experience of UG classes for minimum 10 years should be allowed to act as a research guide. It can update him through his guidance to his candidates.
2. 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.
3. The Principals and the other governing authorities should motivate the college teachers to 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.
4. 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.
5. The topics to be taught in the classrooms should be taught in the present context. Even the theories of the classical thinkers should be taught and interpreted in the present context so that the students may understand whether they are relevant or not.
6. The research guides should allow the research scholars to choose the topic of their own choice and not force them to work on the topic in which they are not interested.
7. Increments of the college and university teachers should be conditional on the basis of the contribution of the lecturers in the field of research.
8. The theses and research papers should be available in the college library for the students.
9. There should be a sufficient funding for the publication of the research works.
10. The version of research works in local languages should be made available at the cost of the

- government for the concerned people in order to make them familiar with the latest developments.
11. It must be mandatory on the part of the college and the university teachers to make the presentation of their research papers and the findings of their minor and major research projects before the students.
 12. In order to make the students familiar with the latest ongoing trends, the teaching should be made through projectors and power point presentations.
 13. At both the graduation and the post graduation level, the paper of dissertation must be compulsory for the students.
 14. In order to bring the students closer to the spirit of research, there must be arranged class-room seminars on the relevant contemporary social issues, and every student should be provided an opportunity to present some research paper. For it, there should be an arrangement of marks to be entered in the mark-sheet.
 15. 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 of Sociology but also enhance the research environment.
 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. The students should be allowed to make a sufficient observation of the primary and secondary groups around them, and then, under the supervision of the lecturers, they must be allowed to make survey or research on some social problem being faced by the members of those groups.
 18. Every year the outstanding research works of the students and the teaching faculties should be awarded.
 19. Inter-disciplinary research should be promoted in the colleges so that the involvement of more and more teaching faculties and students may be ensured.
 20. Each institute should have a Department of Statistics to guide proper research methodologies and empower principles of statistics to the faculty and students.

21. The need of the hour is research funds. This can reduce their financial burden and focus their efforts toward quality research work. Fund utilization should be broadened to procure the latest biomaterials and upgrade the current technology.
22. Every college should give the first priority to the enhancement of research, and for it the teachers should be allowed sufficient fund and leave.
23. 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. The government should make such provisions as can motivate the teachers in particular for writing research papers based on some experimental research, for getting them published, for conducting seminars in the class rooms as well as in the campus and for minor and major research projects.
24. Both theory and practice should go side-by-side, and for it alongwith the theory papers there must be practical exams.
25. The government with the collaboration of UGC should promote research in all the colleges and the mandatory involvement of both the teachers and the students should be ensured.

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