

Building Research Atmosphere in Degree Colleges

Ms Papari Kakati
Reasearch Scholar, CMJ University, Meghalaya
E-mail: papari.kakati@rediffmail.com

Abstract:

Now- a-days doing research becomes almost a compulsory programme for the students who are Post graduate or under graduate under the U.G.C. Students learning in degree level colleges in different faculties under the U.G.C are likely to pursue the research process for their better academic career which will be helpful for them in uplifting their personalities and enable them to serve the country with the new findings of their research. It is now felt essential that almost all the Educational Institutions should show a desire to construct a Research Atmosphere for the greater interest of both the society and the students, studying in the degree level colleges under the U. G.C.

Introduction:

Doing research in any field of study, mostly for the student, becomes one of the important parts of their education in any level of education. Under the U.G.C., now-a -days it becomes almost compulsory. Students learning in the Degree and Post graduate level colleges or Universities in different faculties are generally pursuing research works for their better academic career which will again help them in uplifting their personality and make them able to serve the society with the findings of their knowledge of research. With their investigative ideas uncovering the useful knowledge, the researchers can broaden their mental-horizon and benefit others also with the new ideas. Therefore, it is essential for the concerned authorities of all the educational institutions for building research atmosphere in degree and Post-Graduate level colleges. In true sense, building research atmosphere in degree and post graduate colleges will be beneficial both for students and the society at large.

The very meaning of **Research** however, does not define it to be confined only to the educational institutions. The universe is a vast one and there are innumerable vast fields of study. Anybody with inquisitive and investigative mind can deep himself or herself into the ocean of knowledge and explore the truth of facts and thereby build the foundation for regenerating a truth based on the modern society.

Objectives:

1. This paper tries to establish a relationship between the concept ‘ Research’ and the students studying in degree colleges, pursuing different subjects.
2. To show the benefits of the students for undergoing the research is an object of this paper.
3. To inspire and ignite the minds of the students towards research is also an objective of this paper.
4. To make students realise the need of research atmosphere for their future academic prosperity.
5. To show the benefits of research on the society.

Methodology:

The method of this paper is purely descriptive, based on the study of different research journals, news papers, T.V. interviews with research scholars, interviews with personalities of various strata of the society, articles published in different magazines, etc.

Discussion:

What is Research:

It would be wise to discuss the term **Research** before discussing the atmosphere of it for the academic advancement of the students pursuing different courses under U.G.C. The Research is a scientific process, a means of acquiring knowledge, a comprehension about nature, human phenomena and mysteries. Research aims at discovering the truth. It is undertaken to discover answer to the question by applying scientific method. We undertake research when we wish to explore an idea, probe an issue, solve a problem, or make an argument that compels us to turn to outside help. Then we seek out, investigate and use materials beyond our personal resources. Research is necessary to examine the validity of the old conclusions /belief/convictions or to find out some new facts and generalizations in connection with the existing ones. Research purports to give a new direction and a new insight into the existing problems. Actually the research is an adventure, an intellectual adventure rather than solving a mystery. A good piece of research must give rise to some problems requiring further research. In other words, a research is not an end to a problem. It is rather the beginning.

A research is a form of written communication. Like other kinds of non-fiction writings, it should present information and ideas clearly and effectively. This specific definition is strictly under the U.G.C.'s academic norms. At present doing research works mean completing all the processes as laid down by the U.G.C. for the master degree holder scholars to undertake an area of knowledge in the name of Minor Research Project, Major Research Project and Ph. D degree of the U.G.C. In doing this, a scholar of any stream – Science or Humanities, according to present system, is to apply for Ph. D to the university, face a test for selection, submit a synopsis on the subject of choice for research, face the academic selection committee and after passing through all these, get registration with the university and then under the accredited guide for research, the work of research is to be completed within a stipulated period of time. Following this concept, it can rightly be said that the scope of doing research would be very limited within a university where accredited research guides (Ph. D holder teachers approved by a university as research guide) would be available.

The Research has normally the following objectives:

1. It contributes to the body of existing knowledge.
2. It solves problems of both human being and natural mysteries.
3. It discovers an unexplored horizon of knowledge.
4. It resolves contradictions existing in the realm of study, etc.

However, for last few years Ph. D holder degree college teachers are also being approved as research guides for Ph. D scholars. But under these guides the numbers of research scholars in Degree colleges are seen to be less than that in the universities. Hence, the above defined research works in degree colleges are to a greater extent limited. This limitation should be removed in the Degree Colleges by according or approving more degree college teachers as Research Guides adopting suitable measures.

A New Approach to Research:

At present, for the people in general, research means unfolding the truth of some facts or events which the common people are also facing or viewing in their day to day life or in their search for knowledge. In this sense research can also be done by a non-master degree holder scholar or a man of any academic standard having an interest for finding out truth with a sense of investigation and innovation. If we can accept this philosophy of research, a research guide should not necessarily be a Ph. D holder U.G.C. approved guide. Any teacher of degree

level college or of any educational institution with interest in doing research can also be the research guide for his or her students. In the degree colleges, for this purpose, both the students and the teachers should be motivated to do research works. But the question is how this sort of motivation can be created or simply to say, a research environment can be created in the degree colleges.

Building Research Atmosphere:

The following points may be considered necessary for building Research Atmosphere in degree colleges:

Course and Curriculum:

Textually heavy loaded academic curriculum should be avoided and thought provoking courses of study should be introduced in degree course of studies in all the faculties. This will cause the students to search for new areas of knowledge at their own initiative, for the subjects either in their syllabus or a subject of social concern outside their syllabus. Further the course should be of more practical work and field-study works should be introduced in the degree course or in the study of higher education.

Finance:

For field study and investigation there arises a question of finance. Generally money, sanctioned by the authorities is spent mostly on staff payment and the other miscellaneous works and activities. Field study or field work will necessarily mean expenditure for the scholars and teachers. Therefore, for the purpose, a separate fund should also be sanctioned or allotted for research purpose.

Library:

Practically all that man knows can be found in books stored in the libraries. Both the professional workers in education and the degree students should be familiar with the library and its many folded facilities and services. Man builds upon the accumulated and recorded knowledge of the past. Man's constant adding to the vast store knowledge makes possible progress in all the areas of human endeavour leading to human development. The libraries are the most reliable guides for all research scholars. The librarians assess and evaluate the quality of books before acquiring them for the use in research. A library typically houses a vast number of books as well as similar publications such as pamphlets, dissertations, etc.

and the library gives access to numerous articles and similar writings like reviews, editorials published in print periodicals such as scholarly journals, news papers and magazines. Most libraries also provide non-print sources such as sound recordings and possibly also unpublished writings like the manuscripts or private letters in special collections. A researcher of undergraduate college can take full advantage from these facilities. The degree college should be well informed with the latest events or facts of the world by establishing the modern mode of communication system in the degree colleges whereby their knowledge would be updated and their interest for new horizon of knowledge can be created. If the research scholars still find the library to be insufficient in the college library for the purpose, the library should be connected with internet library system all over the world.

Autonomy of Education:

The research study is based on the autonomy of the students to explore the basics of learning from student-life and social choices and to identify research topics in their personal or group study conducted in co-operation. It stresses that students are the ‘Discoverer’ under the guidance of their teachers, through hands-on access to direct experience, to develop a scientific spirit and attitude to improve the integrated use of what they have learnt to solve practical problems.

Administration:

To administer or control the research activities of undergraduate institutions there should be an administrative machinery or mechanism at the individual college (institution) level and also at the top administrative authority under the jurisdiction of which all colleges (institutions) run. Time to time this will review or monitor the research works for the ethical and safe treatment of human subjects and periodically assess the research practices of the institutions.

Participation of Students at Conferences, Publication etc.:

Among the indicators of success of research programme, the ability of the students to compete for presentation and publication opportunities with other students and faculty are considered most essential. This means that the institutions must encourage and financially support students’ participation in research conferences and dissertation-competitions. In the field of knowledge, powerfully written research papers or documented essays play a significant role by developing the spirit of analysis and maintaining the emergence of new

ideas. A research paper prepares a ground for arguments, controversies, and logical discussions which are supported by ideas and writings of other resourceful persons.

Limitations:

In the college atmosphere there are some limitations in research activity. The teachers and the librarians are mostly busy with knowledge dissemination or class room transaction. The laboratory facilities are also limited. In comparison to Universities the colleges have less reading materials or library facilities. Still when there is will there is a way. The scholars of colleges have to try as per their needs and should contribute to knowledge society facing the limitations also.

Conclusion:

The colleges under universities should provide students with not only readymade knowledge; more important is to provide a good learning environment and a strong academic atmosphere. The teachings of degree colleges should try to update the educational thinking .With the passing of time, branches of knowledge are increasing day by day. If for the reasons, courses are over loaded, students would find it difficult to bear. The only way out is just to introduce the students with the new branches of knowledge, make them thoughts provoking and then the students would take up course of study (subjects) and study (search) for knowledge according to their interests. As time goes on, society is progressing, the twenty first century need to be able to meet the challenges of world of science and technology and to promote over all social progress of high quality personnel. Excellent creative talents cannot do without a good educational atmosphere.

References:

1. Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. Sixth edition.2004
2. University News, A weekly Journal of Higher Education. Vol.50 No.18, April 30 - May 06, 2012.
3. Global Research Methodology Journal, issue 1st to 5th, Published by Aranya Surakhya Samiti & Bilasipara College Library Study Centre, Edited by Dr. Hari Charan Das.
4. Sinha, M.P. *Research Methods in English*, ATLANTIC Publishers & Distributors (P) LTD, 2004, 2007.

#####