
Attitude of Students towards Research in Higher Studies

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Abstract

Research is an organized and systematic study of materials and sources in order to discover and to analyze new things and establish facts and draw new conclusions. It is a systematic process to achieve new knowledge, science or invention by the use standard methods as well as scientific inquiry. The objectives of the paper are to find out the nature of attitude of students towards research in higher studies and the differences of attitude towards research among different strata. Researcher framed four null hypotheses I the present study. Purposive sampling was used for sample selection and 460 undergraduate and postgraduate students were selected as sample for the study through purposive sampling technique. Researcher developed a tool to measure the attitude of students towards research. After collection of data, 't' test was used for testing hypotheses. Out of four hypotheses, two hypotheses were accepted and two were rejected. So, it was

found that there existed degree wise and stream wise significant difference and there existed no gender wise and locality wise significant difference among the students with respect to their attitude towards research.

Key words: Attitude, Research, Higher Studies.

Introduction:

Modern life is the outcome of research. According to Whitehead a progressive society depends on its inclusion of three groups, these are scholars, discoverers and also the inventors. While the scholars rediscover the past and set before us ideals of wisdom, duty and goodness, discoverers find out new truths and inventors apply them to the present needs of the society (Koul, 2013). The universities and colleges are the agencies for producing these types of men who will fuse progressive activities into an effective instrument. Universities and



colleges are responsible as much for extending the boundaries of knowledge as for the training of citizens as well as students. The knowledge obtained from the less reliable or completely unreliable sources are based on assumptions, beliefs and untested generalizations, but reliable knowledge is based on verification of generalizations. Knowledge verification is dependent on research. Research opens new frontiers in all fields like medicine, agriculture, business and also in Education. One of the important objectives of higher education is to create awareness and understanding of importance of research in the classroom. Research is a systematic process to achieve new knowledge or invention by the use of standard methods. In the present day, one of the best measures of scientific progress and progress in a country is the research situation in their scientific communities. Research is an organized and systematic study of materials and sources in order to discover new things and establish facts and draw new conclusions. Research involves a perfectly developed plan, a systematic approach to developing new theories or finding solutions to various daily life problems. It is a process of carrying on a scientific method of analysis that is directed

towards discovery and development of an organized body of knowledge. It is a planned activity to obtain answers to meaningful questions, through the application of scientific investigation. Research is an objective, impartial, empirical, authentic and logical analysis and recording of controlled observations that may lead to the development of generalized principles or theories, resulting to some extent in prediction and control of proper events that may be consequences or causes of specific phenomena.

Review of Related Literature:

The following related literatures had been reviewed and arranged according to the merit of importance and relevance to the study as decided by the researcher and not chronologically arranged.

Shaukat, Siddiquah, Abiodullah & Akbar (2014) in their study on 'Postgraduate Students' Attitudes towards Research' tried to assess the attitudes of 201 randomly selected postgraduate students of teacher education programme from public and private universities in Pakistan. It was hypothesized that students hold positive attitudes toward different aspects of research both the public and private universities.

Results indicated that the male students had significantly positive attitudes towards research than the female students. Similarly significant results were found on age, different programmes of study, and types of university.

Butt & Shams (2013) in their investigation on Master in Education Student Attitudes towards Research: A Comparison between two Public Sector Universities in Punjab. The data was analyzed by using t-test and ANOVA. The results indicated that student teachers have a negative attitude towards research. A significant difference was found in the attitudes with respect to the type of programs and prior areas of specialization.

Kaur (2015) examined the Attitude of Post Graduate Students towards Research. This study was conducted on 200 post graduate students of various courses and faculties of the various colleges. Descriptive survey research was considered as research approach and an Attitude Scale was used to collect data. The findings indicated that the majority of post-graduate students do not have favorable attitude towards research. Significant difference exists between mean scores of the of attitude towards research of male and female post-graduate students.

Gender has a significant effect on attitude towards research of post-graduate students. Type of institution has no significant effect on attitude towards research of post-graduate students.

Sureskumar (2015) conducted a study to find out the level of attitude of M. Ed. students towards research program. The sample consisted of 100 M. Ed. students randomly selected from six college of education in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu. The sample was collected through survey method. The collected data was analyzed statistically and the result revealed that sample shows favorable attitude towards research. Significant difference exists in the M. Ed students' attitude towards research with respect to different demographic variables like gender; type of institution; locality; type of family and birth order.

Objectives:

After considering the above reviews researcher considered the followings as the objectives of the present study:

- To find out the nature of attitude of graduate and postgraduate students towards research.

- To find out the differences of attitude of research among different strata (gender, stream & locality).
- To develop tool for measuring attitude of research of students.

Hypothesis:

Researcher framed the following hypotheses for the present study:

- Ho.1: There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between UG & PG students.
- Ho.2: There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between Rural & Urban students.
- Ho.3: There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between Boys & Girls students.
- Ho.4: There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between Arts & Science students.

Methodology:

This study was quantitative in nature and Descriptive Survey approach was applied for conducting the research.

Variables: Researcher considered three variables of the present study:

- Attitude of Students of higher education towards Research.

Categories variables:

- Stream (Arts & Science)
- Gender (Boys & Girls)
- Localities (Rural & Urban)

Sample: Purposive sampling was used as sampling technique. UG and PG students were selected for the study.

Tools used: Researcher developed a tool to measure attitude. After item analysis 20 items were selected. The validity and reliability were estimated by applying Test-Retest and it was found sufficient for the study.

Analysis and Interpretation:

After collecting data researcher used different descriptive and inferential statistics for analysis and interpretation of data. “t”-test was estimated to find out whether there was any significant mean difference between undergraduate and postgraduate students groups within the variables under consideration.

Table-1: 't'-test: Attitude towards Research between UG & PG students:

Group	N	Mean	SD	SEm	df	t
UG	240	74.85	11.87	0.77	458	9.16**
PG	220	81.28	8.76	0.59		

****Significant at 0.01 level**

In the above table, the calculated 't' value was found to be significant, therefore the corresponding null hypothesis ($H_{0.1}$) was rejected. As such, it could be inferred that

there existed significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between UG & PG students.

Table-2: 't'-test: Attitude towards Research between Rural & Urban students:

Group	N	Mean	SD	SEm	df	t
Rural	236	78.42	10.62	0.69	458	0.50
Urban	224	77.73	11.26	0.75		

In the above table, the calculated 't' value was not significant, therefore the corresponding null hypothesis ($H_{0.2}$) was accepted. As such, it could be inferred that

there existed no significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between rural and urban.

Table-3: 't'-test: Attitude towards Research between Boys & Girls students:

Group	N	Mean	SD	SEm	df	t
Boys	236	78.33	11.30	0.73	458	0.40
Girls	224	77.45	10.59	0.70		

In the above table, the calculated ‘t’ value was not significant, therefore the corresponding null hypothesis ($H_{0.3}$) was accepted. As such, it could be inferred that

there existed no significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between boys and girls students.

Table-4: ‘t’-test: Attitude towards Research between Arts & Science students:

Group	N	Mean	SD	SEm	df	t
Arts	230	75.82	10.74	0.71	458	3.32**
Science	230	80.03	10.81	0.71		

****Significant at 0.01 level**

In the above table, the calculated ‘t’ value was found to be significant, therefore the corresponding null hypothesis ($H_{0.4}$) was rejected. As such, it could be inferred that there existed significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between Arts and Science.

Findings:

- There existed significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between UG & PG students, where in; the comparatively higher mean obtained by the PG students than the UG students with respect to the level of attitude.
- There existed no significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between

rural and urban students, where in; higher mean score obtained by the rural students than the urban students.

- There existed no significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between boys and girls; boys possess significantly higher level of attitude of the issues concerned than student of girls.
- There existed significant difference in the mean scores of attitude towards research between Arts and Science, where in, higher mean score obtained by the Science students than the Arts students.

Conclusion:

Majority of undergraduate and postgraduate arts and science students had positive attitude towards research. PG students had



shown better positive attitude towards research compared to the UG students. Rural student had positive attitude towards research compared to urban students. Boys had more favorable attitude towards research than girls. Science students had shown better positive attitude towards research compared to Arts students.

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