

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS RESEARCH AMONG RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF DIFFERENT STREAMS

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ABSTRACT

"All progress is born of inquiry. Doubt is often better than overconfidence, for it leads to inquiry, and inquiry leads to invention" is a famous Hudson Maxim in context of which the significance of research can well be understood. It is a sort of formal training which enables one to understand the new developments in one's field in a better way. Carefully organized and controlled research enables researchers to test, compare and develop different theories and approaches, explore different methods and learn from other people's experience. Student's attitude has been changed, they want to do research in less time and without doing any efforts. It is not possible to produce quality research in present scenario, because manipulation data has become key feature of present research activities in every field. The scholars of different streams have different types of attitude for their research work.

Keeping this scenario in mind the objective of the present study is to investigate the attitude of research scholars towards research at Ph. D. level. An understanding of the attitudes is necessary to help supervisors to facilitate the learning of research for their students, by enabling them to create positive attitudes towards research. The sample of the study consisted of 100 research scholars of different streams i.e. Arts, Commerce, Education, Science and Social Science who have already submitted their synopses. ANOVA and t-test were proposed to find out significant difference among the scholars of different streams.

The results of the present study showed that, research scholars have moderate attitude towards research. There exist differences in attitude among research scholars of different streams. Research finding revealed that the scholars from Arts and Social Science have average levels of attitudes towards research. Compared to Science streams which have positive high attitude. This could be attributed to the lack of research in Arts and Social Science, and favourable attitude of research scholars of science streams may be related to their scientific training in their labs.

Key Words : Attitude, Research, Streams

INTRODUCTION

Higher education plays an important role in the development of nation. There is pursuit of truth and excellence in man and only higher education can direct the right path of it. Quality in higher education can be understood at two levels. At the first level, quality may be conceived in terms of four main elements, namely, relevance of the system to the society in which it functions, and three main goals of the higher education system: multiplication of skills and knowledge, producing excellence in research and related areas, and making impact on or influencing several systems. Out of these three aspects, excellence in research & related areas of

research is more significance. The issue to excel the quality of research work is very vital from the viewpoint of social and national development. But, presently, it has been observed that the quality of researches at PG and higher level is very low. The facility of internet technology has also added fuel to this problem by which sometimes novice researchers make use of unfair means to complete their research work. This problem is more serious in the area of Social Sciences than Physical or Biological Sciences. Apart from this it was pointed out by Malhotra (2008) that the researchers are provided basic theoretical knowledge of research process at the masters level and later they get in touch of the

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supervisors who without putting the researchers to learn research process help them in selecting problems and conducting research. That is why, as it has been observed, most of the research problem of the researchers usually match the research thesis of their supervisors (Singh, 2008) lack usefulness, misunderstanding of interpreting statistical findings, lack of job support of research use, only rudimentary of introductory awareness concerning the importance of research in the education process, deficient comprehension of the relevance of research in professional endeavours, or self-efficacy issues concerning ability and motivation to learn and perform research-related procedures (Henson, Hull and Williams, 2010 and Ranis, 2003) are some of the major concerns that resulted in unfavorable and negative attitude towards research. These negative attitudes have been found to serve as obstacles to learning (Wise, 1985; Waters, Martelli, Zakrajsek and Popovich, 1988) as well as associated with poor performance in different programmes in higher education. Library management and functioning is not satisfactory at many places and much of the time and energy of researchers are spent in tracing out the books, journals, reports, etc., rather than in tracing out relevant material from them. There is also the problem that many of our libraries are not able to get copies of old and new Acts/Rules, reports and other government publications in time. After facing such types of problems student's attitude changes and quality of research work is low. Attitude plays an important role in conducting researches. A positive attitude enables a person to solve the problem quickly whereas, a negative attitude hampers the efforts in research; both technical proficiency and in terms of interpersonal relationships that research entails.

Dependent Variable- Attitude towards research

Independent Variable- scholars of different streams (Arts, Commerce, Education, Science and Social Sciences)

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study were as following.

1. To study the research scholars' attitude towards research.

2. To study the research scholars' attitude towards research in their respective stream
3. To study the difference in the attitude among research scholars towards research with respect to their streams.

SELECTION OF SAMPLE

The sample of the study was selected from five faculties by simple random sampling i.e., Faculty of Arts, Commerce, Education, Science and Social Sciences.

SIZE OF THE SAMPLE

Overall hundred Research Scholars (who have already submitted their Ph.D. synopsis) were considered as the sample of the study. Twenty Research Scholars of different streams were selected from each faculty (Arts, Commerce, Education, Science and Social Sciences) of DEI Dayalbagh, Agra.

Attitude Scale Towards Research was used to observe the attitude towards research among research scholar of different streams developed by Vishal Sood. The items are based on: Attitude towards general aspects of research and research process, Attitude toward usefulness of research in professional career, Attitude toward relevance of research in personal and social life, Attitude towards difficulties in research and research anxiety. Over all, the scale comprises 42 items out of which 26 were of positive (favourable) and remaining 16 were of negative scoring (unfavourable) type. Dimensions of Attitude Scale towards Research Process, Professional Career, Social Life, Anxiety. The Reliability of the scale was established by: (i) Test-Retest, and (ii) Split-Half method. Test-Retest Reliability was 0.739. Split-Half Reliability was found 0.773. The scale possessed adequate content validity. Item validity of the scale was 1.75. Intrinsic validity was found 0.773.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

To analyze the data both descriptive and inferential statistics were used.

Objective-I: To study the research scholars' attitude towards research

To study the research scholars' attitude towards research, the scores related to the level of attitude towards research were analyzed. To achieve this objective, three categories of attitude towards research viz. Favourable, moderate and unfavourable were formulated. For this purpose the Quartile Deviation was computed. The scores below 160 obtained by the students were considered as unfavourable attitude, scores between 161-180 were considered as moderate attitude and scores above 181 were considered as favourable attitude towards research. The percentage values were calculated and are presented in the table :

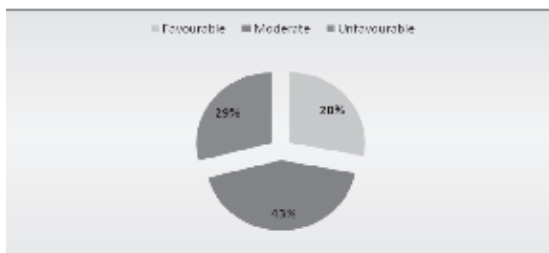
Table-1

Showing the percentage values of research scholars' attitude towards research

S. No.	Level of Attitude towards research	Class Interval	Percentage
1	Favourable	181-above	28
2	Moderate	160-180	43
3	Unfavourable	Below-159	29
	Total		100

The table reveals that 43% research scholars show moderate level of attitude towards research, 28% research scholars show favourable attitude towards research, 29% research scholars show unfavourable attitude towards research. Thus, it can be said that from above analysis the maximum percentage of research scholars expressed moderate level of attitude towards research. It means research scholars of different streams have moderate level of attitude towards research. The results are also shown through following pie diagram :

Graph-1 : Percentage distribution of level of Attitude towards Research



Objective-II : To study the research scholars' attitude towards research in their respective stream

In relation to present objective, the scores related to the level of attitude towards research were analyzed and arranged under following Quartile deviation. To study the percentage of cases in each level of attitude towards research among research scholars of different streams, the scores of research scholars regarding level of attitude towards research are classified under following class interval and shown in table.

Table-2 :

Showing the percentage of attitude towards research under the different levels of attitude among research scholars of Arts Stream

S. No.	Level of Attitude towards research	Arts Stream	
		Class Interval	Percentage
1	Favourable	181-above	20
2	Moderate	160-180	30
3	Unfavourable	Below-159	50
	Total		100

It is clear from the table that 20% research scholars of Arts stream indicate favourable attitude, 30% moderate attitude, 50% unfavourable attitude towards research. Thus it can be said from the above analysis that maximum percentage of research scholars of Arts stream expressed unfavourable attitude towards research. The results are also indicated through bar diagram :

Graph-2 : Showing the percentage of research scholars attitude towards research in Arts Stream

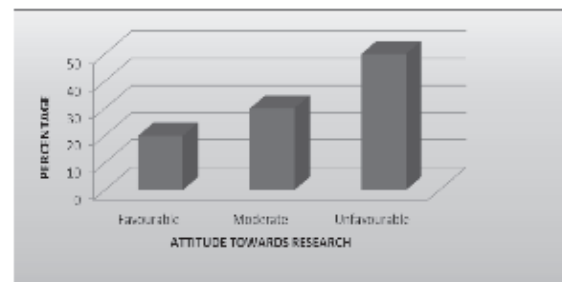


Table-3 : Showing the percentage of attitude towards research under the different levels of attitude among research scholars of Commerce Stream

S. No.	Level of Attitude towards research	Commerce Stream	
		Class Interval	Percentage
1	Favourable	181-above	40
2	Moderate	160-180	40
3	Unfavourable	Below 159	20
	Total		100

It can be said, after viewing the table that 40% research scholars of Commerce stream show favourable attitude, 40% moderate attitude, 20% unfavourable attitude towards research. So it can be said from the above analysis that maximum percentage of research scholars of Commerce stream expressed moderate and favourable attitude towards research. The results are also shown through bar diagram :

Graph-3 : Showing the percentage values of research scholars attitude towards research in Commerce Stream

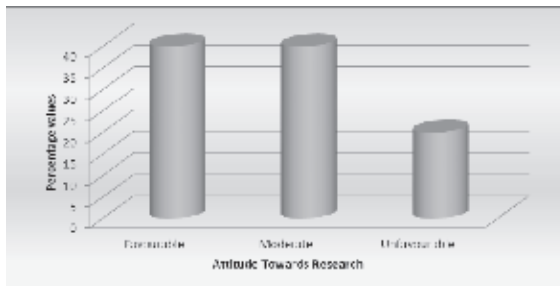


Table-4 : Showing the percentage of attitude towards research under the different levels of attitude among research scholars of Education Stream

S. No.	Level of Attitude towards research	Education Stream	
		Class Interval	Percentage
1	Favourable	181-above	49
2	Moderate	160-180	45
3	Unfavourable	Below-159	5
	Total		100

It is visible from the table that 49% research scholars of Education stream indicate favourable attitude, 45% moderate attitude, 5% unfavourable attitude towards research. So it can be said from the above analysis that maximum

percentage of research scholars of Education stream expressed moderate attitude towards research. The results are also shown through bar diagram :

Graph-4 : Showing the percentage values of research scholars attitude towards research in Education Stream

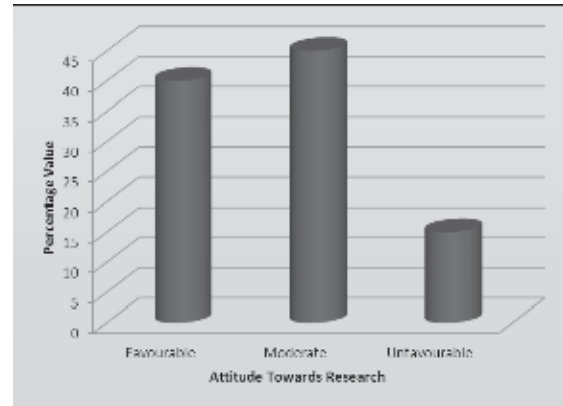


Table-5 : Showing the percentage of attitude towards research under the different levels of attitude among research scholars of Science Stream.

S. No.	Level of Attitude towards research	Science Stream	
		Class Interval	Percentage
1	Favourable	181-above	45
2	Moderate	160-180	30
3	Unfavourable	Below 159	25
	Total		100

It is clear from the table that 45% research scholars of Science stream indicate favourable attitude, 30% moderate attitude, 25% unfavourable attitude towards research. Thus it can be said from above analysis that maximum percentage of research scholars of Science stream expressed favourable attitude towards research. The favourable attitudes of research scholars of Science Streams may be related to their eagerness to learn more. The results are also shown through bar diagram :

Graph-5 : Showing the percentage values of research scholars attitude towards research in Science Stream

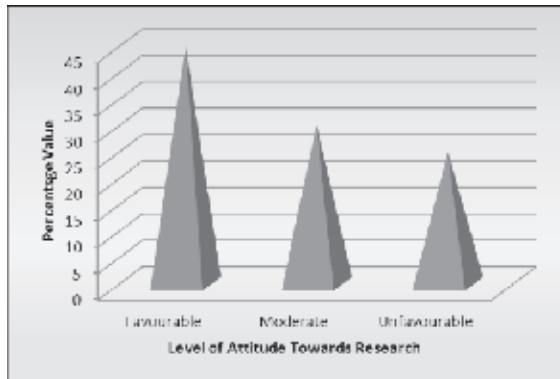
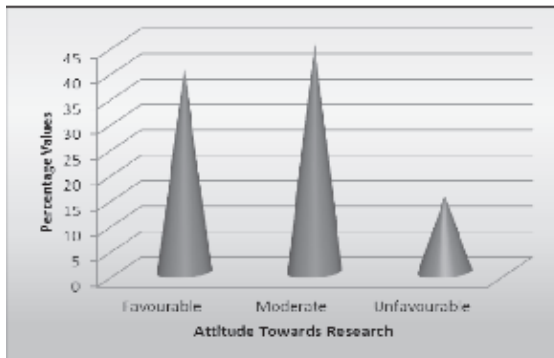


Table-6 : Showing the percentage of attitude towards research under the different levels of attitude among research scholars of Social Science Stream

S. No.	Level of Attitude towards research	Social Science Stream	
		Class Interval	Percentage
1	Favourable	181-above	25
2	Moderate	160- 80	40
3	Unfavourable	Below-155	35
	Total		100

It is clear from the table that 25% research scholars of Social Science stream show favourable attitude, 40% moderate attitude, 35% unfavourable attitude towards research. Thus it can be said from the above analysis the maximum percentage of research scholars of Social Science show moderate attitude towards research. The results are also shown through bar diagram :

Graph-6 : Showing the percentage values of research scholars attitude towards research in Social Science Stream



Objective-III : To study the difference in the attitude among research scholar's towards research with respect to their streams

To study the significant different among the research scholars of different streams regarding attitudinal difference, researcher has calculated the one way ANOVA for the present of the study. The summary table of ANOVA has been shown as under-

Table-7 : ANOVA summary table for attitudinal difference among research scholars of different streams towards research

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	2705.460	4	675.865	2.905	Significant at 0.05 level
Within Groups	22119.500	95	232.857		
Total	24824.960	99			

It is clearly indicated from the above table that calculated F-value has been obtained 2.90 which is significant at 0.05 level, hence it can be said that there exists significant different among the research scholars of different streams regarding attitude towards research. Hence related null hypothesis is rejected at 0.05 level.

Table-8 : Showing the t-values of Attitude of research scholar towards Research to study the attitudinal differences within the streams

Streams		M	S.D	t-value
Arts	Commerce	171.95	17.42	2.29
	Education	176.65	13.48	3.84
	Science	173.00	15.90	2.67
	Social Science	169.70	16.73	1.86
Commerce	Education	176.65	13.48	0.95
	Science	173.00	15.90	0.19
	Social Science	169.70	16.73	0.42
Education	Science	173.00	15.90	0.78
	Social Science	169.70	16.73	1.45
Science	Social Science	169.70	16.73	0.64

Significant at 0.01 level.

It is clear from the above table for attitudinal difference among research scholars of Arts and commerce the t-value between the means is 2.29 which is found significant at 0.05 level, for Arts and Education the t-value is 3.84 which is found significant at 0.01 level, for Arts and Science the t-value is 2.67 which is also found significant at 0.05 level, for Arts and Social Science the t-value is 1.86 which is not found significant. For Commerce and Education, the t-value is 0.95 which is not found significant, for Commerce and Science the t-value is 0.19 which is not found significant, for Commerce and social Science the t-value is 0.42 which is not significant. For Education and Science the t-value is 0.78 which is not significant, for Education and Social Science the t-value is 1.45 which is not significant. For Science and Social Science the t-value is 0.64 which is not found significant, The t-values between the other streams are not found significant. The t-values clearly show that significant differences are found between Arts and Commerce, Arts and Education, Arts and Science, because in Arts Stream all subjects are theoretical while in commerce and Science stream all subjects are practical and empirical in their nature.

DISCUSSION

On the bases of these findings it can be concluded that Commerce streams. Ph.D. Scholars has futuristic approach and finance based researches. On the other hand Education and Science streams have possibilities of educational implication and modification in human behaviour and they also have ample job opportunities. These types of researches are the demand of present scenario to face the challenges of global era. Therefore scholars are doing more researches of this type and have favourable attitude towards research in comparison to other streams.

Research scholars' average opinions about the usefulness and relevance of research for life will potentially be a big hindrance as far as their own participation in the research activity is

concerned. The research component of the advanced research programs needs to be reviewed so that the future researchers can develop an understanding and realize the importance of education research.

RESULTS

The findings were systematically arranged in accordance with the aims and objectives of the study as mentioned.

Objective I - To study the research scholars' attitude towards research.

43% research scholars of the whole sample show moderate level of attitude towards research, 28% research scholars show favorable attitude towards research, 29% research scholars show unfavorable attitude towards research. The majority of research scholars show moderate attitude towards research.

Objective II - To study the research scholars' attitude towards research in their respective stream.

The study shows that the maximum percentage of research scholars of Arts stream expressed unfavorable attitude towards research, research scholars of Commerce stream expressed moderate attitude towards research, research scholars of Education stream expressed moderate attitude towards research, research scholars of Science stream expressed favorable attitude towards research, research scholars of Social Science stream show moderate attitude towards research. The attitude differences were found between other streams but in Arts and Social Science no attitude difference were found. It is conclude that majority of the research scholars have moderate attitude towards research.

Objective III - To study the attitude difference in the attitude among research scholars' towards research with respect to their streams.

There exists attitude difference between the different streams. For attitude difference among research scholars the t-values were found significant; which clearly show that significant differences were found between Arts and

Commerce, Arts and Education, Arts and Science. It shows that the attitude differences were found between Arts with other streams. There were no attitude difference found between Arts and Social Science. The t-values between the other streams were not found significant. It shows that attitude differences were not found between others streams.

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