



FOSTERING A RESEARCH CULTURE IN INDIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

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Abstract

This paper outlines the general situation of university research in Indian society and the particular problems which may be faced by research candidates. The objective of the study is to evaluate the influence of the research culture on the development of research skills, and also the development of society. The paper discusses why a strong research culture is necessary to promote research activity among academic staff and students, and goes on to suggest a number of strategies which address directly the development of a sustainable and pervasive research culture.

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Introduction

Whenever global rankings of universities are announced, there is some whisper in our media and elsewhere about India's poor showing. Former President Pranab Mukherjee spoke about this in many forums, asking why quality of our academia cannot be as good as those in other countries.

Research is one aspect that often got flagged, pegged by the observation that the number of publications and their citations are relatively less in India, in comparison with various developed countries. Why are they low? The reasons are many.

First let's find out the meaning of research culture.

“What developing research culture means?”

An important aspect of research culture is an organization's approach to research integrity – the formal and informal ethics, standards, protocols and policies researchers follow in their environment. Organizations are increasingly recognizing the importance of the role of research integrity.

Education administrators in India looked at this in many different ways, such as, 1) building research culture involves integrating research into an organizational culture that has not previously considered that activity as part of its culture; 2)implanting a research sub-culture within an organizational culture currently having a distinctive teaching sub-culture; 3) having a 'petri-dish' culture — an environment into which we toss research and expect it to grow, just as we expect bacteria to grow in a petri dish. Unfortunately, none of these help much. Improving research culture doesn't require major effort and resources.

These range from simple approaches such as using informal communication channels to nurture a supportive environment, discussing successes and “failures”, to embedding research integrity into the heart of institutional culture, requiring research leaders and senior administrators to lead by example.

Objective of study

The specific objective of the present study is.



1. To identify problems related with research.
2. To find the circumstances and conditions in which research culture can be promote in Indian institutions.
3. To increase specific knowledge about the research culture.
4. To increase specific knowledge about the obstacles and solution about research culture.

Methodology of the study

Research methodology is a systematic for solving any research problem. Present study is based on data collected from secondary sources. Secondary data is collected form web sources, newspapers, book and journals.

Limitations of the study

The specific limitations of the studies are:-

- 1) Present research is an academic endeavor and is affected by the limitation of time, money and energy.
- 2) Since the present study is based on secondary data, hence the accuracy and reliability is not comparable with primary data.

Theme of the paper

To study the “**Fostering Research Culture in Indian Educational System.**”

Discussion:-

A culture of research is largely missing in our Indian institutions. Collegiality and a singularity of purpose among faculty members are one of the important requirements to build that, where members need to be bonded by shared, research-related values, Higher Education in India is up for an overhaul with the National Education Policy 2020 bringing in multi-dimensional changes – right from the regulatory framework to curriculum structure and research environment and also practices towards building a safe home for testing new ideas.

First and foremost, the announcement of the much-awaited National Education Policy (NEP) has cleared the path for setting up a single regulatory body for country’s higher education. The regulatory body, that is to be named the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), will function as the single authority for all public and private educational institutions (except those involved in medical and law education). In addition to this, a National Research Foundation will be created to oversee all research activities to be carried out by the various academic institutions in the country.

The NEP 2020 has aimed at almost doubling the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 50 per cent by the year 2035, as compared to the current GER of 26.3%. It also has provision for greater autonomy to the academic institutions offering quality higher education.

NEP 2020 – Focus on Research

As per the National Education Policy, a central body named National Research Foundation will be created to build a strong research culture and research capacity across different domains in higher education.

To enhance both the quality and capacity of academic research, the government will establish multi-disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

The NEP 2020 has proposed to set up an autonomous body – the **National Educational Technology Forum (NETF)**, to provide a platform for free exchange of ideas on the use of technology in order to enhance learning,



assessment, planning, and administration.

The National Education Policy has also emphasized on setting up of a **Gender Inclusion Fund** which is aimed at creating an environment of equitable and fair quality education for girls as well as transgender students. Also, as per the NEP document, Special Education Zones will be created for disadvantaged regions and groups which will make higher education opportunities more accessible for students. **Research and publication**

Research culture refers to a pattern of basic assumptions about research. In India, we seem to suffer from a tendency to treat research and publication as the same thing, which they are not.

In India, publications happen due to individual initiatives — often driven by survival or promotional needs rather than being drawn out of purposeful collective effort. The difference, thus, is ‘want to’ versus ‘have to’, propeller being ‘individual need’ rather than ‘common zeal’.

Issues in innovative research.

1. Lack of innovative in research design

This means that sometimes innovations fit poorly with practice. As research in social science carried out in different kind of labs which is incompetent to create control condition, so outcome of such research cannot be generalized.

2. Lack of strong innovative research culture and communities

Many countries are pursuing a policy of setting up centers of research excellence within universities, as inter-university centers or stand-alone institutes, often as part of a strategy to improve not just research but also teaching and innovation.

3. Lack of innovative research aptitude among education practitioners

Productive innovations in the education requires researchers that are willing and able to accomplished smart experimenting Unfortunately, innovative skills of educators are hard to define and can hardly be directly observed. This is probably the reason why innovative skills are not measured in the empirical literature and practitioners are not giving emphasis on innovative research skills.

4. Lack of Research Funds

This discourages research of all forms. Governments, institutions/organizations do not quite appreciate the contributions of research findings to economic development and therefore do not provide sufficient amounts for research.

5. Overdependence on web based and online information

Over dependence of cyberspace has dramatically reduced the capability of researchers to Undertake research having attribute of originality. Plagiarism has already transformed into a more sophisticated form of context of today’s electronic age.

6. Staying Motivated and Working Your Plan

Sometimes, in the course of a large innovative research project, the biggest challenge can be internal motivation as the possibility of expected outcome of research work is very less due to uncertain and original of nature of innovative research. It is very important to maintaining the motivation to keep going despite obstacles in innovative and diverse research and the pressures of work and personal commitments.



7. Unavailability of experienced and qualified research guide

The proper guide explores the possibilities of situations and thrives on creativity, which is very important for innovative research. . Creative and innovative guide constantly assessing, reassessing, and making decisions about the best possible means for obtaining trustworthy information, help in carrying out appropriate analysis, and drawing credible conclusions (O’leary, 2004). Due to unavailability of experienced and qualified research guide aspect of innovative research affects badly.

Significance of Innovative Research in Education

The research function of academia remains a prime source of knowledge and innovation at national, regional and international levels. Behind the classroom door the key factor in the success of a lesson, in determining whether the students actually learn something that matters, is the creative ability of the teachers — their ability to combine theory and practical classroom experience. Effective teaching and learning therefore involves the practical application of new research/theory in a classroom environment.

The research is necessary to increase understanding of policies and procedures, instructional approaches, program curricula and content, and stakeholder involvement that contribute to learners fulfilling their academic potential. Through the innovative research, we will identify educational program components that successfully stimulate advanced academic knowledge and skills. Various scholars have varying understandings of the notion “Innovative research”. Innovation is often viewed as the application of better solutions that meet new requirements, Innovative research involves discovering new techniques and increasing working system of an educational institution (Mang and Falch, 2015).

Following are certain educational areas which require innovative research:

- What kind of pedagogical knowledge and skills are central to teachers’ effectiveness?
- How does learning research, new expectations with regard to students’ learning outcomes and skills, and changing value and belief systems shape the range of behavioral interventions of teachers? (Pramodini and Sophia, 2012)
- How can teachers more effectively compose the learning environment to create optimal conditions for learning to materialize, both cognitively and emotionally?
- In our technological society where each sex is expected to fulfil numerous roles, we must have more research studies to support education in overcoming sex role stereotyping and in developing an environment that will nurture the ideal of female equality and promote aim of equal right for development of self-concept.
- More rigorous experimental evidences are needed and further investigation should be made on impact of internet on learning and behaviour.
- Our contemporary knowledge is inadequate about curriculum decision making, learning and instructional programme designs and curriculum development especially with respect to constructivist approach. There must be continuing research to engender knowledge concerning how to improve curriculum materials, instructional procedures and the use of curriculum guides.



- Research is required to search effective educational planning and for what kind of schools, children and teachers, the innovations like team teaching, flexible scheduling, mini-courses, constructivist and programmed learning are suitable and valuable.

The list of above knowledge gap which requires innovative research practice is still illustrative. But on the top of this, proper innovative research strategies especially suitable and appropriate for education field required to develop.

Few Recommended Solutions:

1. Requirement of resources, time and infrastructure should be cater according to demand:

Basic research requires resources, time and infrastructure. The remuneration in research is less attractive when compared to other avenues of employment. The deficiency of effective role models and the government's control over funds are additional barriers.

2. Organization, department and team leaders leading by example in supporting an excellent research culture:

Often seen as “role models” to their early-career peers, organization, department and team leaders who are at the forefront of promoting a positive research culture – such as by taking part in training, encouraging discussions to address difficult questions in an open and honest way and by having an open door policy.

On a positive note, the government has taken a few initiatives, including the establishment of a National Institution to Transforming India (NITI Aayog), to increase involvement of entrepreneurs and researchers, in an attempt to foster scientific innovations. A major chunk of investments in R and D come from the Department of Science and Technology. Given the talent pool, several MNCs are setting up their R and D centers in India to establish their presence within the country

3. Multiplicity of languages:

Applicants in the study described a research culture in which multilingualism has not been successfully fostered. This finding reinforces the aspirations of the NEP, which asserts that more needs to be done to promote multilingualism in teaching and learning, from schooling through to higher education.

The impact of not being able to equip students to learn in their regional languages and having English as the national language has flow-on effects to research, particularly among early career scholars who feel ill-equipped to undertake research activity.

It also occurred that research, as communicated through largely English, means that knowledge creation may exclude many communities that exist in India's provinces. There is a risk that certain knowledge and perspectives are lost as a result.

Mechanisms to ensure that research can be pursued through multiple languages, as relevant to both regional provinces and at national level, will be key to realizing the NEP's aspirations to develop India's intellectual wealth and contribution to new knowledge.

4. Embed research culture at an institutional level

Highlight the significance of research culture and engage all staff across the organization by hosting a research culture and integrity day. Presentations, workshops and panel discussions could be given from across



the organization. Different departments could showcase the ways they have improved research culture and integrity, as well as addressing areas where there is still room for improvement.

Conclusion:

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has become an important issue in society. Research has contributed immensely to our understanding of different cultures and the impact of culture on values, attitudes, ideals, personality development and human behaviour. In spite of all these, research is needed that will aid education in the rediscovery of educational purposes (Boykin, 1972). The search must continue for an optimal balance between purposes of individual and the purposes of society.

We clearly need more sophisticated and innovative techniques for accessing the spirit of the people and to develop curricula that will harvest an educated high school graduate who possesses the basic communication and occupational skills and personal competencies required to adapt future unknown changes in society (Gupte, 2015).

As per Report on the UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge (2001-2009), countries with strong innovation systems privilege research in a variety of contexts including universities and the private sector. In recent years, the changing external environment has seen OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) Member countries' governments place unprecedented emphasis on research as a key motor for national development.

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