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Problems Encountered by Researcher Scholars while conducting Research

(A Case study of Research scholars of few selected universities of Karnataka)

Anupama.R.Natekar
Research Scholar
Dept. of Sociology
Gulbarga University
Gulbarga.

Introduction:

Research includes any gathering of data, information and facts for the advancement of knowledge. Research is an art of scientific investigation. It is regarded as systematic efforts to gain new knowledge.

Research is a “careful investigation or enquiry especially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge.

According to Creswell: “Research is a process of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase our understanding of a topic or issue”.

Research comprises defining and redefining problems, formulating hypothesis or suggested solutions; collecting, organizing and evaluating data; making deductions and reaching conclusions, and at last carefully testing the conclusions to determine whether they fit the formulating hypothesis.

---- ---- Clifford Woody

Steps in conducting research:

- 1) Identifying of research problem
- 2) Literature review
- 3) Specifying the purpose of research
- 4) Determine specific research question or hypotheses
- 5) Data collection
- 6) Analyzing and interpreting the data
- 7) Reporting and evaluating research
- 8) Communicating the research findings and recommendations.

II Objectives of the study:

- 1) To study the problems faced by Research Scholars in their Research work.
- 2) To find out the solution for the problems of Research scholars and strengthen their research work.

III Methodology:

The data was collected mainly from primary source and hence questionnaire was prepared and addressed to few universities' research students. To some extent researcher collected data from secondary sources also.

The population of our study will be all Research Scholars few universities of Karnataka (namely Gulbarga University and Karnataka State Women's University) but the sample is been picked randomly 100 research scholars were chosen for the current study and average percentage method is been used to draw inferences.

IV Limitations of the study:

- 1) Time and resource was one of the constraint.
- 2) Research scholars of few universities namely Gulbarga University of Gulbarga and Women's University of Bijapur was taken for the study and the result of the study may not be same to other state research scholars.

V Problems in research:

- Registration conducting
- Selection of topic
- Selection of guide
- Filling up of the application/admission form of Ph.D

A) Problems in survey:

- i) Geographic restrictions
- ii) Whether the respondents are literate

B) Sampling Issues:

- i) What data is available ?
- ii) Can respondents be found?
- iii) Who is this Respondent?
- iv) What should be the size of the sample?

C) Question Issues:

- i) What type questions can be asked?
- ii) How complex will the question be?
- iii) Will screening question be needed?
- iv) Can question sequence be controlled?
- v) Will lengthy question be asked?

D) Content Issues:

- i) Can the respondents be expected to know about the issue?
- ii) Will respondent need to consult records?

E) Bias Issues:

- i) Can social desirability be avoided?
- ii) Can interviewer distortion and subversion be controlled?
- iii) Can false respondents be avoided?

F) Administrative Issues:

- i) costs incurred in the research
- ii) facilities available
- iii) Time consumed in the research
- iv) Personnel involved in conducting research

G) Other Issues:

- i) Whether lengthy questionnaires be administered?
- ii) Do respondents have the needed information?
- iii) Does the question needed to more specific?
- iv) Whether questions are biased or loaded?
- v) What assumptions does the question make?
- vi) Is the time frame specified?
- vii) How personal is the wording used in questionnaire?
- viii) Whether the wording is too direct?
- ix) Can the questions be mis-understood?

VI Findings:

- 1) 57 percent of the respondents were male and 43 percent of the respondents were female.
- 2) Majority ie 62 percent of the respondents fall in the age group of 25-30 years.
- 3) Majority of the respondents ie 64 percent are unmarried and 26 percent of the respondents were married.
- 4) 72 percent of the respondents were having M.Phil and after their M.Phil they were pursuing Ph.D and the remaining 28 percent of them have registered for their Ph.D soon after their Post Graduate.
- 5) Majority of the respondents ie 34 percent of them have registered for their Ph.D in the year 2011.
- 6) 65 percent of the respondents have gone through with the UGC guidelines before understanding Ph.D (35 percent of the scholars have undertaken Ph.D without knowing guidelines)
- 7) Majority ie 83 percent of them have registered their Ph.D for full-time
- 8) 68 percent of the respondents are appearing for NET/SET/SLET exam and only 16 percent of them cleared NET and 16 percent of them cleared SET/SLET.
- 9) 46 percent of the respondents get fellowship for their Ph.D and the remaining 54 percent don't get any fellowship.

- 10) 46 percent of them get regular fellowship, 8 percent gets Rajeev Gandhi fellowship, 2 percent gets OBC Fellowship and 44 percent gets other fellowship.
- 11) 74 percent of them wrote course work exam, 8 percent didn't appear for course work and 18 percent of the respondents course work is not applicable.
- 12) 35 percent of them are in the first stage of registration and 30 percent of them are in the second stage of registration ie review of literature. And 10 percent of them are in the third stage ie drafting and only 25 percent of them are in the last stage of research ie they have submitted their thesis and waiting for viva.
- 13) 43 percent of the research scholars stay at hostel and 24 percent of them have their own house.
- 14) 70 percent of them took help of their guide in choosing their research topic and 30 percent of them chosen their topic by themselves.
- 15) 23 percent of the respondents agreed they spend 100 percent of their fellowship for their research. 24 percent of the respondents spend 50 percent of their fellowship for their personal and 50 percent for their research and another 24 percent of them spend 75 percent of their fellowship for research and 25 percent for their personal.
- 16) 24 percent of the respondents face financial problem in undertaking their Ph.D. 20 percent of them suffer from language problem while undertaking their research. 18 percent of them say that they face problems such as language problem, financial, drafting, health and family responsibilities problem.
- 17) 60 percent of the respondents have published articles in various reputed journals.
- 18) 29 percent of the respondents agree that they are facing strict/stringent rules and regulations by university as the one of the problems faced by them in their research and 28 percent say that they face guide problem as the biggest problem faced by them. 20 percent of the respondents said that they have problems with other Ph.D scholars as their biggest problem faced by them in their research.

VII Recommendations and Suggestions:

- Some guides go for more quality and keep on filtering what their students do and at the end of the period end up of time given for research.
- Guides should have trust on their students, as without trust they can undertake research.
- Some guides feel jealous of their own scholars so they should be generous enough to help their research scholar to complete their work.
- Guides and students should really involve in real research work or not get in other activities.
- Give liberty to scholars
- They should strictly follow time-table
- Both Head of the Department and Guide should encourage scholar.
- Scholar should select good and new topic.
- Good suggestions and guidance should be provided from Guide.
- Guide should follow rules and regulations.
- Reduce the intake of research scholars.
- Allow fellowships and contingency for OBC students.
- Provide free hostel and other facilities to students.

- Scholars should understand research methodology and should be dedicated towards their research.
- Insufficient source for research is another problem
- Government should provide free laptop and training in presentations and computer knowledge.
- Guides should give research related work.
- Government should provide special facilities for working (Part-time) research students.
- Scholars should improve their communication skills especially English language.
- Guide should conduct Research Methodology class (course work classes) regularly.
- They should make it compulsory for PG students to study in English Medium so that it will help them in their Ph.D in future.
- Progress report should be sincerely seen by the Head of the Department.
- Scholars should be guided in drafting research report.
- Scholars should discuss thoroughly and regularly with their guide about their research.
- Scholars should take real research work in real dedication.
- Scholars should be motivated and made to work on innovative topic.

Conclusions:

Ultimately it is the Research Scholar, who have to undertake their research work with lot of commitment. Of course Guides will be there to help and guide students in finding out the correct direction when scholars go wrong.