



Obstacles in research for new scholars

Wahid Pervez¹, Mukesh Thakur², Muhammad Farhan³

¹Lecturer, Cadet College, Ormara, Balochistan, Pakistan

²JST Himayatul Islam Boys High School, Hyderabad, Pakistan

³Lecturer, BMCO (EAB) Majeed SRE, Karachi, Pakistan

Abstract

This research is formulated to look for problems faced by young researchers with limited resources for research in hand. Few and insufficient researches in research area are the cause of ineffective research which also shows the flaws in system. The faults in the system causing barriers for young researchers have been identified and some approximate ways and appropriate suggestions are recommended to resolve them. Moreover, the present paper highlights the problems faced by new researchers such as limited resources, lack of knowledge, no platform, inaccessible educational resources, etc. The study also discusses the lacking in infrastructure and facilities provided to scholars. This research also points out the causes for which most of the new scholars are discouraged when they have observed that their supervisors are not interested and non-serious in solving their problems in research and studies.

Keywords: limited resources, lack of knowledge, inaccessible educational resources, lacking in infrastructure and facilities

1. Introduction

Research comprises "creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications." It is used to establish or confirm facts, reaffirm the results of Previous work, solve new or existing problems, support theorems, or develop new theories. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research>) Research is being made in Pakistan with much greater pace but there is shortage of quality in research work. This process and its outcome have problems and blockages. Views about such problems and hurdles vary in our educational system. Reasons / hurdles are made clear for the purpose of enabling M.Phil scholars for creating effective and praiseworthy research work.

If it is to be asked that why the new researchers are facing so many problems in the process of research, it will be clear that it is mainly because of the limited resources, lack of knowledge, no platform, inaccessible educational resources, etc and list may be longer enough to fill pages. In fact to be precise, there are not exact infrastructure and facilities to provide a research environment. There is drive need of mind set for research in Pakistan. M.Phil and other scholars leave Pakistan because of no recognition for their talents and abilities and search for true talented researcher.

A new researcher does not find a procedure for his research, moreover these young scholars are treated as school children, and even there is no respect from their own professors and supervisors. A new scholar who is not guided becomes frustrated when he doesn't know to write proper scientific research articles, lack of knowledge in research methodologies, doesn't know how to write abstract, when and

how to add introduction to research, how results of research are described, in what ways to determine research data, and how can digital libraries or websites can be used for research. The new researchers think in the beginning that they will be directed by their supervisor for everything because up to their masters degree they had no knowledge of research procedures, but for the most part they are left alone to do it on their own. Difficulties block their way in the very beginning when they had not adjusted themselves in the research environment, even bigger problems wait for them to come up. As a result of this scholars lose their interest in research. It is an observation that when new researcher starts research with vigor, energy, and motivation to get degree in research, the work proves to be tedious and boring therefore motivation is lost. It is also because of not being guided properly.

In this assignment, there is discovery and the reasons / problems and recommendations to get interested in research and improvements for scholars to get research degree are suggested.

1.1 Aims of Research

The following objectives are put forward for study.

1. Identification of problems during research.
2. Suggesting procedures and mechanisms to solve research problems and make it more effective.
3. Motivations for new scholars in research.

1.2 Research Questions

Following questions to be asked to acquire our target and owns and objectives.

1. Is it necessary to have supervisor at the start of the research?

2. What are your motivations for research?
3. What are your problems in research in Institute of English Language and Literature, University of Sindh?
4. What do you recommend for development of research studies in English Language and Literature, University of Sindh?
5. How can you break these shackles?

2. Literature Review

Man is gifted the power to think and by nature curiosity is built-in in men. Curiosity motivates to explore the truth. The method of seeking truth did differ in the ways to make one think and education. An individual is not always conscious to think about what he learns; in reality he learns many things like skills, attitudes, habits etc. (Khalid, 2004) ^[10]. The literature review shows that interest and inclination of the researcher are major factors in production of effective results in research. The more the investigator becomes enthusiastic about some topic better chance are that he will try to investigate deeply and thoroughly (Marshall and Reason, 2007) ^[12].

On the other hand the infrastructures of research bodies are important as well, this demands a well established and monitored system of research institutes but unfortunately research in Pakistan is considered as the low priority area (Mahmood and Farzana, 2010) ^[11]. Pakistani research needs a proper system and culture for conducting research (Haider & Mahmood, 2007) ^[8]. There is no existence of a helping and encouraging culture. No one is there to motivate and guide students. There are few incentives for a good researcher. His / her work is not being valued. Peers do not recognize and value good research (Haider *et al* 2007) ^[8].

Financially scholars face problems during research. (Mahmood and Farzana, 2010) ^[11]. If a researcher somehow overcome his problem and grows interest in the research side there many other problems also waiting e.g. energy crisis, high prices of internet, lack of personal computers or laptops, emotional and psychological problems (Ameer *et al*, 2013, Buttery *et al*, 2006) ^[3, 4], unfortunately of supervisor to the topic / field, (Buttery *et al*, 2006) ^[4], limited access to the digital libraries (Mahmood and Farzana, 2010) ^[11], less acceptance to society (Haider and Mahmood, 2007) ^[8] Misjudgment during viva (Grabbe, 2003) ^[7], lack of confidence (Butter *et al*, 2006) non-operative attitude of supervisor (Dann, 2008) ^[6] etc.

The culture of research means that the students ask questions about everything and are inquisitive about the studies. But when this type of culture evolves society does not accept it (Mahmood and Farzana 2010) ^[11]. In our (Pakistan culture it is considered unnecessary to conduct research on topic like basic needs of research and what are the problems researchers face (Haider and Mahmood 2007) ^[8].

Students and professors in researcher training programs often encounter a cultural clash between the worldviews of the teacher and researcher. (Labaree, 2000) ^[1].

Vilkinas (2002) ^[13] has shown a new vision of role of a supervisor. According to her supervisors have complex role to play at academic level with the passage of time, she says the role of supervisor is same as that of manager. There are some differences such as autonomy, monetary dependency, short

term engagement and less formal authority. She recommends qualities that supervisors must have.

1. Visionary
2. Creative in supervising
3. Ability to acquire necessary resources
4. Motivating student to produce effectively
5. Guide
6. Check and co-ordinate various activities in research
7. Monitoring Students progress
8. Nurture, create capabilities
9. Able to foster growth of individuals (Vilkinas, 2002) ^[13]

Pakistan need much improvement in present educational resources for research for instance quality research trainings program; online data access and departmental magazine, research workshops, research showcase, social events, students liaison committee meetings and participation of research students in research committee meetings.

Universities are trying to resolve this issue by supervisors training, students training and changing supervisor of system from single supervision to group supervision, by arranging workshop models in which rules and regulations, and thesis standards are communicated through workshops and course work model seminars and tutorials are held for problem discussion and research methods (Buttery *et al*, 2006) ^[4].

3. Research methodology (Population and Sampling)

The population for this study is M.Phil students, librarian and assistant professor from Institute of English Language and Literature, University of Sindh. This research study shows the available facilities for students and students' problems. In this sample of study, there are five M.Phil students, 1 Librarian and 2 Assistant Professors from Institute of English Language and Literature, University of Sindh. The data is collected in interviews from faculty members and research students in structured and unstructured manner in Institute of English Language and Literature, University of Sindh. The open ended questions were asked from each person. The results of this research study were analyzed carefully and qualitatively for better achievement of objectives.

4. Data Analysis

The data gathered from respondents qualitatively was kept in view in the following analysis of the research.

A system is collection of sub-structures which combine to make sure to work effectively to attain particular objective or goal. If such system works accurately to resolve a particular problem at hand then any problem can easily be resolved.

"In the 20th century, "culture" emerged as a central concept in anthropology, encompassing the range of human phenomena that cannot be directly attributed to genetic inheritance. Specifically, the term "culture" in American anthropology had two meanings:

1. The evolved human capacity to classify and represent experiences with symbols, and to act imaginatively and creatively; and
2. The distinct ways that people, who live differently, classified and represented their experiences, and acted creatively." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture>)

To know how the research is being conducted in our research

institutes we should note minutely our present culture regarding research.

As we have noted previously that academic research is not valued too much in our system. Some of the flaws and problems as discussed by faculty members and new researchers are given here.

1. Lack of knowledge of researcher
2. Unfamiliarity of structure, system, and procedure even supervisors are not fully aware of it.
3. There is no leadership and supportive culture for research.
4. No monitoring encouragement and direction for researchers.
5. No orientation sessions for new researchers to have vision and of their work.
6. Political instabilities and strikes also cause research negatively.
7. Furthermore education in most of our universities is not research oriented. Stereotype educational system is followed here. Students rely on notes given by professors. Some old notes are followed by professors. They do not change it. Consequently students are confused as there is no proper guidance for them to carry out their research and they can do little or nothing to fill research gaps. Students also tend to select topics on their own without consulting their supervisors.
8. Another problem that most of the researchers face is financial. Scholarships are not easily students available for the research, as there is not any other source of earning for the students; therefore they are less accepted by the society. As a result of this, research students are not able to focus on their work and they lose their interest.
9. Members of faculty talked about a big problem area. They were worried because the boys and girls did not come up to the standards that the teachers expected in connection with the dependability, conscientiousness, honesty or general moral behavior.

The problems given above can be resolved, as per data from the respondents, by following suggestions.

1. Supervisors are needed to be assigned the responsibility to attend M. Phil Scholars at the beginning of the research.
2. The researcher must feel free to communicate with the supervisor as coordination and supportive environment for research is there.
3. A helpful supervisor must boost the confidence of the new researcher. (All students agreed).
4. Supervisors must possess the current knowledge of the findings in the field.
5. Libraries must have the content that help in research process and librarian must have the basic knowledge of the books to facilitate the researcher from beginning till the end. Further, there should be a system of digital library so as to search for the books which may not be easily available to students. Students of research should be allowed as open access towards books in the library so as to let him feel at home libraries must be so functional as to bring the most current book or findings of research.
6. Most students who are not rich enough to have internet access or personal computer must be provided maximum facilities for their work of research.

7. There must be a paper set for students to inform them whom to meet for research program to initiate working in time.
8. There must be turning of educational practitioner into educational researcher.
9. The gap between Institutional Setting and Knowledge Space must be filled.

An appropriate structure is not available. A proper structure is defined as "Structure is a fundamental, tangible or intangible notion referring to the recognition, observation, nature, and permanence of patterns and relationships of entities. This notion may itself be an object, such as a built structure, or an attribute, such as the structure of society." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structure>)

In the light of this definition I have observed the structure of educational research in Institute of English Language and Literature, University of Sindh. After we have carefully analyzed these factors of problems we can go for their solutions to minimize them as far as it could possibly be done so as to produce future research work with much ease and effectively.

5. Recommendations

We have observed the structures and factors of problems and have collected the data too. So there are some recommendations which will be helpful in the research process and producing quality research. These recommendations are for all i.e. institute, faculty members, and research students.

1. Each group must prefer research work at all level starting from undergraduate level or even before it.
2. Supervisor be appointed is call for new researchers at the very beginning of the program.
3. Orientation sessions must be conducted for supervisors end new researchers before starting research work.
4. Meeting sessions of research scholars and professors must be set at particular dates monthly so as to make sure the research is being carried out and take update status of the scholars' activity and their problems during the research.
5. Scholars should be confident in their area of interest and supervisors can still facilitate them in selecting their topics according to their interest.
6. Digital libraries must be at first hand to help researchers in completing their research.
7. Supervisors themselves should be active researchers.
8. Supervisors should be encouraging, friendly and helpful the researchers.
9. Supervisor should be included in the final Viva.
10. As a complete research the entire research scholar, so there is need of being consistent and dedicated is the research.
11. Supervisor and supervisee need to work together on a research al post graduate level.
12. All available resources must be wisely utilized by researcher and supervisors should because of the limitations.

6. Summary

Academic research is required and must be considered as a major issue in today's changing world. The academic research is not valued in Pakistan.

This research study was aimed to bring out the problems in research with lack of educational resources in our system and our cultural norms which prove to be the major hurdles in the way of research. The problems in process of research by new scholars are carefully analyzed and how they are affected by social and cultural environments. When students begin research they think that pre-existent structure will give them way for this research and by following it they will succeed in the process but this is not always the case students of research have to work very hard in their research work to adjust themselves in research area. The central point of this research study is to familiarize a mechanism of quality research at higher level. The problems lies in structure, culture, and supervision in production of quality research. Academic research is given much importance in the process of research. Suggestions and recommendations given in this study is needed to be focused and followed.

The production of quality research is not far if the positive culture of research is developed. This study will assist academicians, researchers, practitioners and especially new at the failed will be benefited at higher level and will provide them much feasibility.

7. References

1. David Labaree F. The Peculiar Problems of Preparing Educational Researchers Educational Researcher. 32; 4:3-22.
2. Stephen Corey M. Educational Research and solutions of practical problems Educational Leadership, 480.
3. Ameer NK. Energy Crisis in Pakistan: Causes and Consequences. Abasyn Journal of Social Sciences. 2013; 4(2):2-8.
4. Buttery EA, Richter EM, Leal Filho W. An overview of the elements that influence efficiency in postgraduate supervisory practice arrangements. International Journal of Educational Management. 2005; 19(1):7-26.
5. Cepeda G, Martin D. A review of case studies publishing in Management Decision: Guides and criteria for achieving quality in qualitative research. Management Decision. 2005; 43(6):1-6.
6. Dann S. Applying services marketing principles to postgraduate supervision. Quality Assurance in Education. 2008; 16(4):333-6.
7. Grabbe LL. The trials of being a PhD external examiner. Quality Assurance in Education. 2003; 11(2):128-133.
8. Haider SJ, Mahmood K. MPhil and PhD library and information science research in Pakistan: an evaluation. Library Review. 2007; 56(5):407-7.
9. Hoffer E. A Path Forward: Conserving Protected Areas in the Context of Global Environmental Change. Beyond Naturalness: Rethinking Park and Wilderness Stewardship in an Era of Rapid Change, 2010, 252.
10. Khalid MT. Education Part I. Carvan Book House, Lahore, 2004.
11. Mahmood K, Shafique F. Changing research scenario in Pakistan and demand for research qualified LIS professionals. Library Review. 2010; 59(4):291-303.
12. Marshall J, Reason P. Quality in research as taking an attitude of inquiry. Management Research News. 2007; 30(5):368-380.
13. Vilkinas T. An exploratory study of the supervision of Ph. D./ research students' theses. Innovative Higher Education. 2008; 32(5):297-311.
14. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture>)
15. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structure>)