

Development and Promotion of “Discipline Specific Research Eco-System” among University Students

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Abstract: *For academic advancement, in-depth knowledge, development of critical thinking, and for more clarity of career objective, discipline specific research is crucial for student life as it enables them to understand the core concept regarding the topic with its practical applicability. By keeping above mention idea at centre, this article efforts to explore the three important points: first, what ways to adopt to encourage the students for involving in active research. Second, what should be proper structure of discipline-oriented research proposal? So that scholar would not deviate from research objective. Third, to explore and identify suitable and authentic funding institutions and to understand their norms/process to pump blood into the study. Overall, this article reflects how young minds can be redirect towards innovation by research.*

Keywords: *academic advancement*

I. INTRODUCTION

Research which is specific to a particular domain/field is called discipline specific research which follow domain specific traditions, methods and standards for further enquiry. Continuous and focused enquiry results in specialization and advancement of knowledge in that area, which led to critical thinking and novation.

For economic wellbeing of a country such research plays crucial role. It enables the scholars to identify region specific problems and their solutions. Discipline specific research promotes deep insight and specialization for technological advancement which is indispensable for productivity and competitiveness of industries. Distinct conceptual and logical thinking produce skilled professionals who attracts investment from abroad, which take GDP graph of a country to remarkable heights.

By considering above mentioned points, NEP 2020 has been launched with great vision to transform the school education by focusing on foundational learning and holistic development and higher education by promoting mainly multidisciplinary learning and quality research. A dynamic shift can be seen in higher education from merely degree completion to critical thinking and quality research. The aim behind keen focus on research is to promote “innovations”, so as to meet industry’s demands in terms of skilled professionals and innovative products as well.

One thing is worth mentioned here is - dynamic mentorship, develop skill to craft a logical research proposal, and continuous and competitive funding are some important pre-conditions for producing future researchers.

INTEGRATE STUDENTS IN ACTIVE ENQUIRY

In Morden education system research became an integral part of academics. The main object behind it is to improve critical thinking, learning and research productivity of students. To integrate course with enquiry and learning proves as key to promote research environment among students. Early project work, community engagement programme, hands on training and assistant mentorship create interest and confidence among students for bigger projects.



Apart from it, required amenities like free access to research related literature, well equipped lab, opportunities to attend research-oriented programmes, financial rewards or excellence awards for even small discoveries etc should be made available to encourage the students.

During the tenure of curriculum, a small research project/internship/ research publication must be compulsory for all students by assigning them a mentor faculty who guides them at different stage, to develop their lifelong research skills.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL WRITING

Research proposal is a “Blueprint” and convincing document. Which display relevancy of research in terms of its importance to discipline and its originality. It also exhibit scholar’s academic proficiency and knowledge about current state of research regarding particular discipline, which proves that his research idea is unique and contributory and not based upon any personal or prejudice thoughts. Research proposal also confirms feasibility of research idea in terms of time duration and access of resources.

Although research proposal can differ substantially due to differentiation among discipline but there is a standard structure which almost followed by each discipline, which mostly include:

Title – which should be concise, clear and complete in itself

Literature review- which affirms the depth of knowledge, a scholar have and his capability to find out research gap.

Methodology- These are tools and techniques which helps to confirm/solve the hypothesis/research question.

Results/Outcomes – After applying suitable methodology what are the final results and practical applicability and contribution to the existing knowledge.

Other – It includes constraints, budget and timeline, gateways for further enquiry etc.

ROLE OF MENTOR AND INSTITUTE TO PROMOTE RESEARCH

Role of mentor: “A mentor is defined as that person directly responsible for the professional development of a research trainee. Professional development includes both the explicit conduct of scientific research (e.g., instrument use, research design, observational technique, and theoretical or cognitive frameworks) and the implicit development of scientific standards (e.g., selection of research questions and data, authorship practices, and norms of communication, interpretation, and judgment). It applies to all levels of professional development, from undergraduate work to junior faculty positions, although the focus here is on graduate students.”¹

Role of institution: Institutes may work on two path to promote an ethical and excited research culture among students and inside the organization. First to develop required infrastructure like library with good journal and easy access, practical labs, industry collaboration, sound approach to funding facility etc. And second which is more important is to organise proposal writing workshop, seminars and round table discussions for faculty and student to keep them aware about new research paradigms and to sharpen their skills regarding different aspect of research.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH

Securing funding for research is not an easy process for scholar and institutions as well. The funding agency has their specific demand which must be match with research goal. In other word funding agency ready to fund any project only when they satisfy with the research core objective and its viability. On the other hand, different funding agency has their own expectation, criteria, norm and process which need to be understood clearly by a scholar. Some of the major source for funding can be:

Government institution: Mainly provide fund for the project focuses on societal issues or public benefit. In India, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) are the well-known government agency to fund science and engineering projects. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)



provide funding for research in medical project and public programs. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) provide funding for research project related to agriculture development.

Industrial collaboration programmes: collaboration among academicians and industries are crucial for innovation, improvement in existing technology, making manufacturing process cost effective, and for other industrial advancement. Industries who provide fund, proved as investment for them.

Private trust/agencies: These agencies mainly provide fund to a particular target driven project.

University seed funding programme: this source is managed by the university by its own to finance funding needs of research projects of its own students at early stage. It also supports start up to grow.

II. CONCLUSION

Development of ecosystem for discipline specific research is of immense importance as it not only accomplish curriculum requirement but also develop a favourable environment for future researcher, whose research and innovation would contribute in India's growth and development. For such development many things are prerequisite like effective mentorship, navigate financial resource, establishment of physical facility like lab and library, and last but not least, to integrate the student with this research activity.

Discipline specific research confirms more targeted approach as at starting students learn logic about general concepts, learning gradually and become more specific about their research which advances existing knowledge and contribute to societal benefit.

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