Research Paper Communication

Research for Excellence In Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

The word "research" is used to describe a number of similar and often overlapping activities involving a search for information. Research is an investigation or experimentation that is aimed at a discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of theories or laws or practical application of the new or revised theories or laws. Higher education (HE) is where you can study at an advanced level normally after you turn 18 years old. Higher education courses are usually studied at universities, university colleges and higher education institutions. However, they can be studied at specialist colleges, for example art and music, and some further education colleges.

KEYWORDS Research, Higher Education, Colleges, Universities

INTDRODUCTION:

The history of education in India is very rich and interesting. One can trace the ancient Indian education to the 3rd century BC. Research shows that in the ancient days, sages and scholars imparted education orally, but after the development of letters, it took the form of writing. Palm leaves and barks of trees were used for education, and this in turn helped to spread the written literature. Temples and community centers often took the role of schools.

When Buddhism spread in India, education became available to everyone and this led to the establishment of some world famous educational institutions Nalanda, vikramshila and Takshashila. These educational institutes in fact arose from the Monasteries. History has taken special care to give Nalanda University, which flourished from the fifth to 13th century AD, full credit for its excellence. This university had around 10,000 resident students and teachers on its roll at one time. These students included Chinese, Sri Lankan, Korean and other international scholars.

It was in the 11th century that the Muslims established elementary and secondary schools. This led to the forming of few universities too at cities like Delhi, Lucknow and Allahabad. Medieval period saw excellent interaction between Indian and Islamic traditions in all fields of knowledge like theology, religion, philosophy, fine arts, painting, architecture, mathematics, medicine and astronomy.

Later, when the British arrived in India, English education came into being with the help of the European missionaries. Since then, Western education has made steady advances in the country. With hundreds of universities and thousands of colleges affiliated to them, in fact scores of colleges in every discipline, India has positioned itself comfortably as a country that provides quality higher education to its people in specific and to the world general.

In our country there are outstanding examples of persons who made world-class contributions to knowledge without the support of advanced laboratories or research facilities that were available to their peers contributions of Ramanujam, Tagore, C.V. Raman, J.C. Bose, S.N. Bose, S. Chandrasekhar, Homi Bhabha and many others, that too in the pre-independence period, are outstanding examples of the best creative work that could be done by dint of power of thinking and belief in their abilities. Lord Rutherford, the great pioneer of nuclear physics, when he was told that America was going ahead in nuclear physics because they had a lot of money, once said, " Americans have money. We do not have it, and so we have got to think." There is no substitute for hard and serious thinking; and with sustained and serious effort we should be able to go long way even with our meager resource and capital. It will, therefore, be an anachronism to continue to use the human brain for memorizing information when it should be used for solving problems, creative thinking-the skill attributes of knowledge workers. Therefore, any system of education unless it is learner- centered, is flexible, is around developing thinking skills and is able to help learners in acquiring the ability of learning how to learn will gradually lose its relevance. Therefore, there is now an urgent need to reorient teaching-learning in the universities to meet the requirements of the youth for living and contributing effectively in the 21st century.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The main objective of this study is to briefly analyze historical significance of Research for excelling in Higher Education in India.

HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA:

Higher education in India starts after the higher Secondary or 12th standard. While it takes 3 years for completing a B.A., B.Sc or B.Com pass or honors degree from a college in India, pursuing an engineering course would take four years and five years (with six months of additional compulsory internship) for completing a bachelor of medicine or bachelor of law degree. Postgraduate courses generally are of two years duration. But there are some courses like Master of Computer Application (MCA) that are of three years duration. And we have 5 years integrated course also. For those who cannot afford to attend regular classes for various preoccupations can pursue correspondence courses from various open Universities and distance learning institutes in India. Now we have online education system too.

EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

From the early 1950s, when the elite of independent India were filled with a new self-confidence, there has been an attempt within the public domain to create institutions of excellence in higher education.

Education in India is seen as one of the ways to upward social mobility. Good education is seen as a stepping stone to a high flying career. There has in fact been considerable improvement in the higher education scenario of India in both quantitative and qualitative terms. In technical education, the IITs, and in management, the IIMs have already marked their names among the top higher educational institutes of the world. Moreover the Jawaharlal University and Delhi University

are also regarded as good higher educational institutes for doing postgraduates courses and research in science, humanities and social sciences. As a result, students from various parts of the world are coming today for higher education in India.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH:

The vital importance of knowledge to a country's economic health and living standards is now widely recognized internationally. Investments in the generation and transmission of knowledge-in the education and training of young people, in updating skills and know-how of the workforce, and in the generation of knowledge through, research-are increasingly accepted as an essential requirement for a nation's long-term growth and competitiveness. Equally important is the capacity to innovate, to apply knowledge to productive ends and to exploit the benefit of new ideas.

Research in fields such as marketing, communication, business and law will be important if we are to take full advantage of the commercial opportunities created by new developments in science and technology. Just as important, research will play a major role in assisting societies to manage the consequences of continued rapid change, including managing the social changes and adjustments flowing from the transition to a knowledge-based economy. High-quality social research, for example, will be vital to dealing with the ethical issues arising from developments in technology: to preparing citizens for the changes flowing from the rapid growth in information and communications technology; and to ensure that there is not a widening gulf between the information-rich 'and' information –poor' society.

Research in the humanities and social sciences makes a major contribution to our sense of identity and cohesiveness as a nation. It promotes an appreciation of our culture and history; fosters an understanding of different traditions and customs and of the importance of tolerance and respect; and stimulates and informs debate on the goals, directions and values to which our democratic society aspires.

Research of this kind helps to promote indeed, is itself a mark of a civilized society. Increasingly, citizens are required to take or at least to sanction complex decisions. The quality of our democratic process is coming to depend more and more on our ability to generate and make effective use of advanced knowledge and to develop policy analysis based on this knowledge.

THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT FOR RESEARCH:

The nature of knowledge creation is changing, not only in India but Internationality. While the inspiration and persistence of individuals will always remain the foundation stone of discovery, breakthroughs do not occur in a vacuum. Increasingly, the important questions for research are not based on disciplines but on issues or problems, demanding multi-disciplinary research solutions. As a consequence, there is now a growing emphasis on teamwork in research and complementarity of skills, with many networks of researchers pooling their diverse talents in a flexible way to pursue a common goal.

At the same time, the traditional distinctions between 'pure' and 'applied' research are rapidly breaking down. While research unconnected to an ultimate use must continue to have a prominent place in our research institutions, there is no longer a simple one-way flow from 'basic' to applied research rather there is a increasingly rapid interaction between the two, with applied research efforts often generating questions which can only be answered at the 'basic' level.

The locations of research activity are also changing, and knowledge generation is increasingly crossing the traditional boundaries between institutions and sectors. For example, in addition to their traditional task of generating knowledge, universities now receive and transform knowledge. At the same time, the primacy of the universities in basic research is being strongly challenged in a variety of fields such as the computer sciences, many applied sciences and engineering where the emphasis is on application of research. There is an increasing role for applications-driven approaches in many spheres of research, and a growing share of the national research effort is occurring in commercial settings. These trends are particularly pronounced in the fields of science and technology research, but are by no means confined to them; similar trends can also be observed across a range of the social science and humanities.

THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE:

Research has always been a global enterprise. International publication and peer review has been central to maintaining excellence and the free flow of knowledge. This globalization is increasing with the advent of the knowledge economy, involving international partnerships through the exchange of personnel, shared infrastructure and collaborative projects across national boundaries.

CONCLUSION:

The success of our national research effort relies not only on the quality of the work of individual researchers but also, vitally, on the institutional environment in which they operate. Important strategic decisions need to be made by our institutions about the areas in which their research will be concentrated; on their quality assurance processes for research; on the alliances to be formed with industry and other parties; on issues of intellectual property, copyright and consultancy income; and on the Institute and allocation of their institutional resources for research.

Creative research does not require a large team nor expensive equipments but innovative projects lead to innovative products. Establish Innovations and Knowledge cells. Promote student's companies. Establish technology incubators in Institutions, the move of making regional engineering colleges, as national institute of technology is more welcoming. Institutions must be encouraged to set their own clear priorities for research and research training, as well as provide an environment that will attract the best researchers and postgraduate students in its chosen fields.

Building strong educational foundations create core competence by world –class infrastructure, motivate energetic, enthusiastic and create young minds to take up faculty positions. Develop academic environment turned to scholarship and professional excellence. Integrate creative research and technology incubation in academic environment. Provide support mechanism for transfer of knowledge into prosperity technopreneruship. To give a new dimension, India needs to setup more academies of excellence going to grass-root level to tap talents with a free unbiased growth emphasis.

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