



A Study of students' Views towards Research Process

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Introduction

Education is a very effective agent of social change. Educational researches are very essential fields to know changes, test, select or make it more extensive in any area of education. This training starts with the action research as a part of B.Ed. course. The basic knowledge, concept and process of research begin and it takes a proper shape during M.Ed. degree course when students start involving with their dissertations. In M.Ed. course students make dissertation on any educational area. That is also an important initiative for future research. This training of research process should be done properly and systematically to produce skilled and efficient researchers.

It is very necessary to develop skills for good researches in future. This process should be held in systematic and scientific way and so it is very necessary to know the present situation of research process in this context. The research process is conducted differently at different M.Ed. colleges. What is the nature of the research process at different M.Ed. colleges? What are the problems faced by students in research process? How M.Ed. students feel for this process? Many questions are raised in the mind of investigator that is why the researcher has conducted the present study.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study were as follows:

1. To study the reactions of M.Ed. students about the research process they are involved during M.Ed.
2. To study views of M.Ed. students about research process across gender variation.
3. To study views of M.Ed. students about research process across locality variation.
4. To study views of M.Ed. students about research process across qualification variation.

Hypotheses of the study

Four null hypotheses were formulated according to the objectives and independent variables of the study. These are as under:

Ho.1. There is no significant difference in views of M.Ed. students towards research.

Ho.2. There is no influence of gender on views of M.Ed. students towards research process.

Ho 3. There is no influence of loclaity on views of M.Ed. students towards research process.

Ho. 4. There will be no influence of educational qualification on views of M.Ed. students towards research process.

Research Method

Survey method was employed because opinions were collected from the students through opinionnaire.

Population and Sample

Students of M.Ed. colleges of different universities of Gujarat state constitute population of present study. It is detailed in the table 1.

Table –1
Sample of the study

Sr. No.	Variable	Level	Number of Students	Total
1	Gender	Boy	120	300
		Girl	180	
2	Area	Urban	150	300
		Rural	150	
3.	Educational Qualification	Graduate	70	300
		Post graduate	230	

In this study, a list of education departments and colleges affiliated to different universities of Gujarat state was prepared and 15 colleges were randomly selected for the study. Students of these colleges were selected through random sampling method. Thus, total 300 students constituted the sample.

Tool of the study

A self-made opinionnaire was used for data collection in this study. There were seven components

such as selection of research problem (1 to 9), selection or construction of tool (10 to 20), study of review of related literature (21 to 28), research design and methodology (29 to 32), data collection (33 to 36), analysis and interpretation of collected data (37 to 40), report writing of research work (41 to 46). Thus, in total there were 46 items in the opinionnaire. There were three options- Agree, No opinion and Disagree in front of each item. Students needed to tick any one of the three options.

Technique of Data Analysis

The collected data were classified according to each component and responses of students on items. Thus, the number of subject in each level was decided. Then, χ^2 value was found out for each item in context of variable of this study. Even at the end of each variable section/component wise item were classified for overview about the significant and insignificant. Thus, qualitative analysis of items was also done.

Limitations of the Study

- Only Gujarati medium students were selected for the study.
- Only self-financed and aided colleges were selected for this study.

Findings of the Study

Findings related to opinion, gender, area, educational qualification presented and these were as follows:

(A) Findings based on views of Overall Items

In overall, views for the items, there is not real difference in respect of item no.9, “Unwillingly interest develop due to research work is compulsory.” Whereas in respect of rest of 45 items, there has been found significant difference in opinion shown in these items. The students have the following views towards research process at M.Ed. level.

Component-1 ‘Selection of Research Problem’

- There is less freedom in selection of research problem.
- Most of the problems are selected on the basis of present problems of education.
- Research is interesting because of new subject.
- I like to do research because the research subject is related to education.
- Past literature helps in selection of subject in research process.
- Much interest is maintained in research if the subject is of choice.
- The problems of education field are helpful in selection of subject.
- Two year time is enough for completion of dissertation.

Component-2 ‘Selection or Construction of Tool’

- Readymade standardized tools are not easily available.
- Research process becomes easy if readymade data collection tools are available.
- More time is allotted for construction of tool.
- There are problems for reviewing self-constructed tool by experts.
- Sometimes readymade tools are not economical and affordable.
- Study of past research literature is helpful for making tool.
- Study of reference books gives direction to researches.
- Internet is useful in getting information of the pre-researches.
- There are variations in researches done in different universities.
- There are confusions in review of related literature.
- Group guidance is welcome for preparing research design.

Component: 3 Study of review of related literature

- Necessary steps are helpful in preparing research design.
- The guidance from guide is a boring process.
- Guidance should be in person instead of in group.
- Classmates are helpful in data collection.

- Help is required in data collection as schools are so far.
- Subjects for data collection are difficult to find.
- Data collection is an expensive process.
- Researchers face many difficulties in statistical analysis.
- Teachers are unable to guide for statistical analysis.
- Lack of expertise in computer or SPSS software poses difficulties in data analysis.
- Previous dissertations are helpful in writing dissertation.
- Research report writing is an expensive process for a student.

Component: 4 Research design and methodology

- There are many difficulties in proof reading.
- Typing dissertation is a time consuming task.
- The questions about research process create confusions in viva.
- There remain some mistakes in research report even though taking utmost care.

(B) Findings related to Gender Difference

There were gender differences in views of following items according to gender. It means there were difference in views of boys and girls, in which views of boys were more in 'agreement' than girls. Thus, the views of gender effect were as below.

- Readymade standardized tools are not easily available.
- Sometimes readymade tools are good but not affordable.
- It is difficult to find reliability and validity of self-constructed tool.
- Opinions of experts are not easily obtained for self-constructed tool.
- There are difficulties in getting reference literature from other universities.
- Study of reference books gives direction to researches.
- Most of the reference literatures are copied.
- Necessary steps are helpful in preparing research design.
- Classmates are helpful in data collection.
- It is difficult to find volunteer subjects for the study.

- Data collection is an expensive process.
- Lack of expertise in computer or SPSS software poses difficulties in data analysis.
- The task of data analysis seems to be hard.
- Support of other dissertations is helpful in writing dissertation.
- Research report writing is expensive.
- There are many difficulties in proof reading.
- There is much time required in typing work.
- There remain some mistakes in research report even though taking care.

(C) Findings related to Difference of Area

There were differences in views in context of area. It means, there were difference in views between urban and rural area, in which opinion of urban area were more in favor 'agree' than the rural area in the following items. These items were as following.

- Most of the problems are selected on the basis of present problems of education.
- Research is interesting because of new subject.
- Readymade standardized tools are not easily available.
- Much time is spent on construction of tool.
- There are problems for reviewing self-constructed tool by experts.
- Sometimes tool is not economically affordable.
- Study of reference books gives direction to researches.
- Most of the reference literatures are copied.
- Research work is easy by study of reference books..
- Group guidance is welcome for preparing research design.
- Necessary steps are helpful in preparing research design.
- Classmates are helpful in data collection.
- Selected schools in sample need to increase because students are not available for data collection.
- There is difficulty in statistical analysis at M.Ed. level.

- Support of other dissertation is taken in writing dissertation.
- There faces many difficulties in proof reading
- There is much time required in typing work.

Opinion of the rural area students are more “agreed” then the urban are students. These were as below:

- The questions about research process create confusion in viva.
- There remain some mistakes in research report even though taking care.

(D) Findings related to Educational Qualification

In the following items, there was difference in views of students according educational qualification. It means there were differences in items in context of educational qualification mean graduate students and post graduate students.

In the following items views of post graduate students were more in ‘agree’ then the graduate students in the following items. These were as following.

- There is no freedom in selection of research problem.
- Tow year time limit for dissertation is enough.
- Unwilling interest should be developed because research is compulsory.
- Readymade standardized tools are not easily available.
- Much time is allotted in construction of tool.
- Most of the reference literatures are copied.
- Necessary steps are helpful in preparing research design.
- Classmates are helpful in data collection.
- Help is required because schools are so far.
- There faces difficulties to do statistical analysis because of insufficient knowledge of computer or SPSS software.
- There is much time required in typing work.

Educational Implications

The following points were derived on the bases of findings of the present study as educational implications.

There was effort to study views of M.Ed. students towards research process. The present situation was studied through students' views. The obtained data are analysed and interpreted. The findings derived by data analysis and interpretations presented in previous section. Educational implications obtained at the end of this study can considered as outcomes of the study that can be helpful to study the views of M.Ed. students towards research process. Educational Implications on the bases of findings of the present study are as below.

1. Views of M.Ed. students towards research process and the problems and difficulties during research process can be evaluated.
2. Findings of the study can be useful as guide during the different stages of research process.
3. Proper action plan can be designed for the component or subject in which the students have problems or even the reasons of it can also be known.
4. Findings of this study would also be useful to make positive changes by identifying problems of students in research process.

Suggestions

The following points should be kept in mind to decrease the difficulties faced by M.Ed. students in research process.

1. Teachers should be helpful in statistical analysis.
2. Universities should provide good reference books on research methodology and statistics in the library or through book bank.
3. Expert professors should be inviting in colleges so that teachers and students could be trained in research process.
4. Students should be given freedom to select topic of their interest.
5. Problems in the research process should be thoroughly researched.

Conclusion

In the present study, the researcher has tried to discover the problems related to research process faced by post-graduate students of education subject. Researchers always try to do good research with something new topic but due to some circumstances like not getting

proper guidance, the guides having no command on every area of research, financial problem, time management, family problems etc., they don't give proper focus on research process. Because of all these problems, they go to short cuts and give paid contracts to complete the dissertation. Unfortunately there are so many persons who provide such services. Moreover there are some guides who possess poor knowledge of research, and also encourage to their students to select this short cut. How shameful it is if a guide is unable to guide his/her student. A guide should provide proper and concrete guidance and take genuine responsibility to help the students when they face problems.

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