A STUDY ON THE CHALLENGES OF RESEARCH EDUCATION

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Abstract

Educational research refers to the systematic collection and analysis of data related to the field of education. Research may involve a variety of methods and various aspects of education including student learning, teaching methods, teacher training, and classroom dynamics. Research is an in depth inquiry in to a problem which need an amicable solution. Every invention in the world happens as a result of a scientific enquiry. See the example of Isaac Newton when the apple falls on his head, he started the question with why? He searched for truth, reason or discover to new knowledge. He applied commonsense in his enquiry.

The present conceptual research paper is to study the objectives of challenges of research education with prime aims (i) To understand the concept and scope of research in education (ii) To discuss the challenges of research education.

The present conceptual paper based on the challenges of research education the continuous search resulted in solving his problem. Hence research can be termed as the search for truth or discovery of new things or builds body of knowledge regarding a phenomenon. Research is a systematic, scientific, objective activity, which includes the collection relevant information, and careful analysis of data, recording and reporting of valid conclusion, that may lead to creation of new knowledge, development of theory, principles, and generalization.

Key words: Challenges of research education

Introduction:

The developed theory, Knowledge, principles or generalization may help the researcher or concerned authority to predict occurrences of certain possible events and thereby make possible to ultimate control of unwanted events. Research also means that the process of testing the validity of assumptions and formulated hypotheses. When we come to the educational research it is the process of scientific inquiry to solve the problems of educational sector of a country. It includes theoretical elaboration, quality enhancement matters, policy draft and implication, classroom dimension and so forth. It involves a continuous enquiry in search of knowledge, advancement, problem solving methodology and an attempt to realize the truth from an objective point of view based on factual understanding and systematic study.

Scope in Educational Research:

Education is considered as a vital tool for social as well as national development. It has significant role in evaluating the human development of a country. When we assessing the development of a person, society, community or a Nation, the educational attributes, such as educational qualifications, number of educated person in the society or community, number of educational institution in the state or country (elementary, secondary, higher, professional educational sector) with respects to its population, rate of enrolment, retention, quality of education provided, equity and equality for educational opportunity and so forth are considered as the prime criteria for consideration. Hence every nation in the world has been giving emphasis to the development educational sector of their country. Many innovative programmes and projects are preparing by the policy makers as well as the academic bodies across the world to improve their educational quantity as well as the quality. Crores of rupees are allocating in their budget for implementing such planned programmes and project. In India the projects like District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) , Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Area Intensive Programme (AIP) , Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya (KGBV), Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Rashtriya Uchayistic Siksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Scheme for the Promotion of Quality Education in Madrassas (SPQEM) are constituted and implemented to improve the standard of educational sector of the country. Educational Researches are the main input as well as the output to bring such change in the educational sector. Research findings identify the shortcomings, strength and weakness of the educational sector of the country and it recommends implementing such and such programme for the development of their educational sector. Educational research also helps to evaluate the effectiveness as well as the impact of particular programmes and project which has been undertaken by any governmental or non governmental agencies. Hence the breadth and width of the educational research is unlimited. It has a scope to conduct research in any area of education which has a chance to contribute knowledge for the development of education of a society, community and Nation as well.

Purpose of Educational Research:

The Educational research has enormous purposes. Some important purposes are presented as following.

> ➢ To identify truth regarding Enrolment, retention, dropout, quality of Education and so forth.

> ➢ To build new knowledge regarding the methodology, pedagogy or other core subject areas.
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> ➢ Adding of existing stock of knowledge related to educational field.
>
> ➢ To solve a problem related to classroom, institution, administrative level, policy level.
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> ➢ Invention of new teaching methods, curriculum transaction strategies, effective grouping technique and so forth.
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> ➢ Realizing the exact problem of educational sector.
>
> ➢ Assess the Effect of New methodology of teaching.
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> ➢ Identify and assess the ICT enabled classroom and teaching.
>
> ➢ To understand the teachers knowledge on latest evaluation techniques.
>
> ➢ To identify the hindrances to achieve universalization of education.

Various characteristics of a Good Research:

While analyzing the discussions of eminent educationalists and social scientists, we can draw the following characteristics of a good research.

1. Research is directed towards the solution of a problem.

2. Research is a continuous enquiry in search of knowledge.

3. Research emphasis the development of generalization, principles, theories.

4. Research is based upon observable experiences and empirical evidences.

5. Research rejects revelation and dogmas as methods of establishing knowledge.

6. Research employs in depth review of related literature.

7. Research depends on valid and reliable data gathering procedure.

8. Research demands accurate observations and descriptions.

9. Research applies systematic and scientific procedure for the study.

10. Research involves gathering of new data from first hand sources (primary) or existing data (secondary sources) for a new purposes.

11. Research is based on carefully designed procedure with rigorous analysis.

12. Research requires expertise.

13. Research is a objective, logical process and eliminate personal bias

14. Research involve the quest for answer to unsolved problems

15. Quantitative Research involves hypotheses testing using suitable statistical techniques

16. Qualitative Research involve objective thick description on thin data

Challenges of Research Education

The challenges of educational research are identified in the following areas: the political nature of education; the problem of definition of educational research as a science and the dislocation between educational research and practice of education.

Overcoming challenges common to doctoral researchers

- Lack of motivation. A doctorate is a long project so your motivation will dip and peak along the way. ...
- Lack of self-confidence. Doing a doctorate can be highly exposing. ...
- Poor time management. ...
- Lack of focus or direction. ...
- Limited support. ...
- Stuck in your comfort zone. ...
- Fear of failure/taking risks. ...
- Lack of relevant experience.

Overcoming challenges:

Thinking positively is usually the first step to achieving your goals and it might help to know that at some time most researchers have faced and overcome difficulties such as the following:

Lack of motivation

A doctorate is a long project so your motivation will dip and peak along the way. Set yourself some short-term tasks when lacking motivation so that you can start to make progress again. Identify what motivates you and give yourself regular rewards. It is easier to motivate yourself if you know where you are headed so plan your research project and keep track of milestones achieved.

Lack of self-confidence

Doing a doctorate can be highly exposing. Be aware of your level of self-confidence and self-belief. If it drops, try to boost your confidence by:

1. Seeking positive feedback
2. Acknowledging your achievements so far
3. Taking stock of your competencies
4. Stretching yourself by trying out new things.

5. If your lack of confidence is seriously affecting your ability to function then seek advice and professional help.

Lack of relevant experience

Identify where your gaps are and explore all options and take opportunities. Try to find some work experience to broaden your competencies.

Challenges Faced by Researchers in Education:

Research requires several ingredients; some difficult to manage, while others are difficult to arrange. It is done by a single individual, but requires the acceptance/approval of several others; guides, supervisors, defense committee members, interviewees, focus group members, etc.

In developing nations, research is in its incessant stage. Researchers face challenges in choosing a research topic, statement etc. In addition, researchers are faced with challenges associated with growth, infrastructural deficiencies, financial crunches, etc. Here's a list of top 10 challenges that we found intimidating for budding researchers:

Lack of Scientific Training: The research methodology is not systematic. Many researchers undertake research work without having actual knowledge of the research methods. Even the guides do not have a thorough knowledge of the various methodologies. Before undertaking research projects, researchers should be well equipped with all the methodological aspects.

Lack of communication with the supervisor:

A university professor is a busy person. It is important to have guidance on a research project. Poor communication gets on the way of the progress of the research. It is important to communicate with the supervisor to clarify the doubts regarding the research topic, to know what the supervisor expects from you and to learn more about your research topic.

Time management: Spending ample time in learning the skills and practical implementation consumes a lot of time. In such a scenario, taking out time for intense research and to draft a top-notch research paper becomes impossible.

Not having a definite deadline: Deadlines are stressful. But not having a deadline can be troublesome during the Ph.D. journey. Deadlines help you get closer to your goals. Many times, Universities fail to implement a due date to submit the research paper, leading to confusion and improper time management among the scholars.

A quantity of literature: It can be difficult to deal with the quantity of literature that one might have accessed. The literature review is iterative. This involves managing the literature,

accessing data that supports the framework of the research, identifying keywords and alternative keywords, as well as constantly looking for new sources.

Implementing quality of writing within the literature review:

A literature review has to go beyond being a series of references and citations. You need to interpret the literature and be able to position it within the context of your study. This requires careful and measured interpretation and writing in which you synthesize and bring together the materials that you have read.

Insufficient data: Insufficiency of data is a potential problem. Most of the business establishments are of the opinion that researchers may misuse the data provided by them. This affects the purpose of research studies for which that particular data may be of utmost importance.

Lack of confidence:

Lack of confidence is one of the most common problems among researchers. Researchers with low self-esteem feel less motivated thereby affecting the quality of the work.

Concern that your focus is either still too broad or too narrow: This concern is inevitable. Be prepared to adapt your research as you look through the literature. This might require you to either increase its focus or narrow down so that the research is manageable. A broad focus for research might be narrowed down by adding an appropriate context or by looking for another variable within the research question or by focusing upon a theoretical viewpoint.

Coping with change:

Getting a PhD is more than merely attaching two letters in front of your surname and hoping that they will lead to a life filled with research and publications. Many ECRs I talk to seem quite unprepared for the emotional upheaval that follows the end of their doctoral studies and the transition into what often feels like a very insecure future. Even if everything went swimmingly – and that's more of an exception than a rule – the transition process and letting go of the "old me" can be unexpected and challenging. Knowing that others go through a similar process can be quite comforting.

Post-PhD blues: Sometimes, instead of the anticipated elation at finally completing the thesis, there is a feeling of emptiness. Some feel lost once the project that took up so much of their lives over the past three or more years is over, and they struggle to find anything that will offer similar intensity and a sense of purpose.

Personal life changes: As the old adage goes, life is definitely something that happens while you are busy making other plans and the post-PhD period is no different. Given how long it can take to either secure an academic post or figure out a way to transition out of academia, many new PhDs will be making those transitions alongside major life changes such as getting married, having children, coping with caring responsibilities, etc., and will be searching for a way to bring some control back into a messy and chaotic time.

Lack of support from supervisors:

While the official relationship may be over, some ECRs will be keen to maintain the informal connection with their supervisors. However, I often hear about a mismatch of expectations and some misguided, if well-intentioned advice. Many supervisors managed to secure their academic roles in a much friendlier economic climate and don't understand the harsh reality faced by current ECRs attempting to find academic jobs. Equally, even though the majority of ECRs end up outside of academia, there are times when supervisors can be dismissive of those choices, thus leaving their previous supervisees feeling like they failed.

Conclusion:

Research also means that the process of testing the validity of assumptions and formulated hypotheses. When we come to the educational research it is the process of scientific inquiry to solve the problems of educational sector of a country. It includes theoretical elaboration, quality enhancement matters, policy draft and implication, classroom dimension and so forth. It involves a continuous enquiry in search of knowledge, advancement, problem solving methodology and an attempt to realize the truth from an objective point of view based on factual understanding and systematic study.

The research in education was played an important role for overall development of the education system, now it is expected to help positive awareness and understanding educational system.

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