

Research Competency in Higher Education

Mapping and Management



Edited by

S.C. Panigrahi

H.J. Patadia

H.S. Mistry

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Preface

<i>Preface</i>	v
<i>List of Contributors</i>	xv

SECTION ONE Status of Extant Research

1. Competencies in Doing Educational Research <i>S.C. Panigrahi and Biswajit Behera</i>	3
2. Research: A Holistic Insight <i>Dipti Oza</i>	10
3. Some Neglected Areas in Qualitative Research <i>Nilambar P. Deota</i>	13
4. Relevant Canons of Quality Research <i>G.L. Gulhane</i>	27
5. Knowledge and Use of Internet by Research Scholar <i>Magre Sunita Vithalrao</i>	37
6. Research Competency of Scholars in Sikkim University <i>Dona Rai</i>	48
7. Importance of Course Work in Educational Research <i>Milind Sahasrabuddhe and Swaleha Sindhi</i>	53
8. Framework of Researcher Competencies: Need of the Hour <i>Bharati Ganiger and Ramesh M.</i>	57
9. Research Competencies According to Neo-Researchers of (AT) Case <i>Ramesh M. and Bharati Ganiger</i>	65

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 10. | A Critical Look at the Doctoral Research Programme in the Institutions of Higher Education | 74 |
| | <i>Sambit Kumar Padhi and Mukesh Chandrakar</i> | |
| 11. | Role of 'Social Software Tools' and 'E-skills' for Quality Enhancement in Social Science Research: A Study | 81 |
| | <i>Mary George Varghese</i> | |
| 12. | Identification and Selection of a Research Problem | 86 |
| | <i>Ekta Priyadarshini</i> | |
| 13. | Research Problem: Identification and Formulation | 95 |
| | <i>Mohd Shoket</i> | |
| 14. | Research Report and its Fundamentals | 104 |
| | <i>Sudershan Kumar Pathania</i> | |

SECTION TWO

Planning of Educational Research

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 15. | Researching Pioneer Competency: An Interdisciplinary Perspective | 113 |
| | <i>Chhaya Goel and Devraj Goel</i> | |
| 16. | Planning Researcher Competency: Mapping and Management in Education | 123 |
| | <i>R.S. Mani</i> | |
| 17. | Researcher Competency: A View on Mapping and Management | 138 |
| | <i>L.B. Patted and Nataraj B. Patted</i> | |
| 18. | Qualitative Assessment of Research Competency Through Portfolio | 147 |
| | <i>Sanjivani R. Mahale and Minakshi Barve</i> | |
| 19. | Developing Researcher Competency for Quality Research in Education | 151 |
| | <i>Hemlata Talesra</i> | |
| 20. | Quality Research: A Dream in the Present Scenario | 157 |
| | <i>Harishankar Singh and Aradhana Sethi</i> | |

SECTION THREE
Administration of Educational Research

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 21. | Researchers' Competency: Reflections on the <i>Bhagavad Gita</i>
<i>Harsha Patadia and Pramila Gururajan</i> | 171 |
| 22. | Researcher Competencies in Physical Education: The Need of the Hour
<i>P.B. Thumar</i> | 184 |
| 23. | Initiative by UGC for Developing Research Competency
<i>Sheetal Helaiya</i> | 193 |
| 24. | Relative Focus on Various Types of Research in Education
<i>Sandhya Milind Khedekar</i> | 202 |
| 25. | Towards a More Authentic, Productive and Ethical Research
<i>Sarla A. Santwani and Dharendra Patel</i> | 211 |
| 26. | Research Competencies for Teacher Educator
<i>R.L. Madhavi</i> | 217 |
| 27. | Research Competency: Mapping and Management
<i>Harsha J. Patadia</i> | 228 |
| 28. | Educators Educate Thyselves
<i>Pranav Vyas</i> | 236 |
| 29. | Knowing Publication: Competencies for Academic Writing and Publishing
<i>Minaxi S. Bhagwat and R.G. Kothari</i> | 243 |
| 30. | Competencies in a Good Researcher
<i>Madhavi Dharankar</i> | 254 |
| 31. | Doctoral Skills and Competencies
<i>Pushpalata Sharma</i> | 261 |
| 32. | Gen-Y Researchers Need to Think and Act Globally
<i>Arti Bhatti</i> | 270 |
| 33. | Meta Analysis of Educational Research in India: The Way Forward
<i>Bibhuti Narayan Biswal</i> | 281 |

34. **Resolving Dilemmas in Collaborative Research: A Road Map for Cultivating Wholistic Research Culture** 296
J.N. Baliya
35. **Quality of Educational Research and Pedagogy: An Exposition** 306
Mouchumi Deka
- Index* 319

Qualitative Assessment of Research Competency Through Portfolio

Sanjivani R. Mahale and Minakshi Barve

Introduction

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Nashik is a mega Open University in India. The University has eight schools. Each school has different programmes like Academic, Professional, Vocational and different level of programmes from Certificate to Doctoral degrees. School of Education (SOE) also has different level programmes like SHG, ECCE, B.Ed, M.Ed etc. According to the UGC guidelines the SOE started Masters in Philosophy (M. Phil) programme in Education and Physical Education in the year 2007.

Table 18.1: Structure of the Master in Philosophy (M. Phil) Programme in Education

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Course Name</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Marks</i>
1.	Research Methodology	External	100
2.	Instructional and Training System Design	External	100
3.	Advance in Education (a course work related to research)	Internal	100
4.	Optional paper (any one)	External	100
	4.1 Communication modes in Education OR 4.2 Assessment and Evaluation	External	
5.	Seminars and Assignment	Internal	100
6.	Research Dissertation and viva-voce	External	100

For research component, the University decided to give 100 marks for Advance in Education (a course work related to the research), and 200 marks for Research Dissertation and *viva-voce*. The programme has 40 per cent weightage for research work.

The University identifies 14 study centres throughout Maharashtra recognized as a research centre. The centre having at least four recognized guides having Ph.D degree and approval for post-graduate teaching experience.

The university conducts a three day Counselor and Guide training programme for academic purposes and a Director Coordinator meeting for administrative purposes. The Director and Coordinator have the role of counselor as well as guide. In the Counselor training programme some sessions are given for understanding and guidance of research activity and expectation of the University from students, guides and study centres.

The course "Advance in Education (a course work related to research)" was a new concept for all the guides. Therefore, two-hour session was conducted for understanding and activity for the course.

Uniqueness of Advance in Education (A Course Work Related to Research)

- This course is compulsory to all students. But the syllabus of the course differs according to the research topic of each students.
- The syllabus of the course was developed jointly by the students and respective guide.
- Research topic was related to the guide specialization area or related to the students' interest area.
- The evaluation of the course is totally internal, therefore the guide is having a judgement of his/her research students for deeper understanding of the course.

Expectation from Advance in Education (a Course Work Related to Research)

- To develop the student capacity to compare the syllabus of the same course in different universities at the M.Phil level.
- To develop the student's capacity for using the various recourses of his/her specialized area.

- To develop self-directed learning competency in the students.

Steps for Development of the Syllabus for Advance in Education (A Course Work Related to Research)

- Finalization of research area of the students.
- Collection of syllabi for the same course from the different universities in Maharashtra.
- Develop 8-9 chapters of the course with the help of encyclopedia, journals reference books and internet.
- Students should collect the related reference material from respective places.
- Students have to develop point and sub-point of each chapter by studying the reference material and get it approved by the guide.
- This syllabi was sent to the university in a described format for approval.
- Expert Committee approved the syllabi developed by each student.

For this work student and guide get 3-4 months.

Observation of the Experts About Syllabi

SOE got the syllabi of each student from the study centre. It was given to the expert for approval.

The expert having following observation

- Most of the syllabi did not have latest knowledge.
- Syllabi are at B.Ed. and M.Ed. level.
- Primary references and secondary sources are not shown in the reference list.
- Most of the students and few of the guides don't know how to frame the Syllabi.

Conclusion—There is Need of a Different Strategy for Development of Syllabi

SOE decided to give some input to the guide and students. The member of the committee identified the research area by taking

reference "Surveys of Educational Research". They study all research proposal submitted to the university. They classify the research topic into 17 areas.

These areas are as follows: according to these 17 areas the university select experts from all over Maharashtra and conduct three days workshops for development of syllabi. This latest Syllabus was sent to the guide and students with the help of a study centre. If the research topic was related to more than one area then from this syllabus the guide and students have to revise their syllabi according to the guideline.

The guide has to develop two term paper questions and two short assignments questions and give it to the students. The students are expected to complete these activities. One term paper has be to presented in the next workshop, and other is evaluated internally by the guide. From this activity the SOE expected the impact of this work on the thesis of the students.

Other Books of Interest

P.K. SAHOO, D. YADAV and B.C. DAS
Quality Education in India (In 2 Volumes)

ANTONY STELLA and A. GNANAM
Foundations of External Quality Assurance in Indian Higher Education

ANTONY STELLA and A. GNANAM
Making the Most of Accreditation: Balancing the National and International Developments in Higher Education

B.L. GUPTA
Academic Audit

B.L. GUPTA
Competency Framework for Human Resources Management

B.L. GUPTA
Governance and Management of Technical Institutions

B.L. GUPTA
Management of Competency Based Learning

G. RAMESH BABU
Research Methodology in Social Sciences

R.P. Misra
Research Methodology: A Handbook

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