Importance of Developing Research Orientations in Colleges

Dr. Akashdeep Singh,
Assistant Professor (Law),
Rayat College of Law, Railmajra, S.B.S. Nagar, Punjab

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ABSTRACT
Developing and maintaining research work in colleges benefits the students, faculty members and the institutions. Inclusion of research component in the curriculum enables the students to develop their own critical thinking. Every college and university course includes an element of research that students must carry out independently, in the form of projects, dissertations and theses. However in colleges making project files, assignment or dissertations become only a formality and students many a times just copy the content from earlier projects. This paper endeavors to analyze the importance of research oriented teaching in colleges and its impact on student’s life.

Keywords: Research Orientations, Students Engagement, Educational Institutions, Colleges, Scientific Research.

Introduction:
Research is at times mistaken for gathering information, documenting facts, and searching for information. Research is the process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data in order to understand a phenomenon. The systematic programme of research is used in defining the objective, managing the data, and communicating the findings occur within established frameworks and in accordance with existing guidelines. The frameworks and guidelines provide researchers an understanding of what to include in the research, how to perform the research, and what types of inferences are probable based on the data collected. It is scientific activity undertaken to establish something a fact, theory, principal or an application. It is an academic activity. It is the pursuit of truth with the help of study, observation, comparison and experiment. Research can be used for any kind of investigation that is intended to reveal interesting or new facts. As with all activities, the precision with which the research is carried out will be reflected in the quality of the results. In India, especially professional colleges, every college and university course includes an element of research that students must carry out independently, in the form of projects, dissertations and theses, and the more advanced the degree, the greater the research content. Teachers also in colleges or universities are frequently required to do research in order to develop or improve their subject knowledge or to help students in doing research projects.

Functions of Research in Educational Institutions:
The main function of research in colleges is to expand the educational procedures through the purification and extension of knowledge. Promotion of research in colleges and universities provide platform to the students as well as teachers to contribute in the society by establishing new facts to the existing set of knowledge. The main functions of research in colleges are:
(a) “To improve the student learning and classroom problem with which teacher is encountering with problems. The more effective techniques for teaching can be developed.
(b) To aid educational administrators to improve the educational system.
(c) To contribute to the theory and practice of education simultaneously.”

Importance of research in colleges:
The Indian education system mainly promotes learning by memorization technique based on repetition. Unfortunately! Students get confined to the prescribed syllabus, books and notes study materials alone. Having fallen in this habit, they continue to limit themselves even when pursuing higher education. They just attend lectures and study prescribed books; and never tried to explore further. And when it comes to post graduation courses, where presenting research papers and submitting thesis forms a vital part of academics, the result is low and disappointing as there is no new information to offer. Research can instill in the student the confidence to form one’s own conclusion based on available evidence. Thus, the research

11 http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-opportunities/importance-of-research/article3600155.ece
process has a very favourable impact on valuable learning objectives as undergraduates prepare for their respective professions.\textsuperscript{12} On the other hand the methodology of learning through books does have benefits of a kind as it promotes development of qualities important for success such as the ability to have long concentration spans, focus and the mental capacity to remember things. However, this system has one major constraint. This method does not promote the ability of learning how to learn because this ability is usually developed in the research methodology of learning and teaching. By engaging in research and scholarly activity, students get to explore beyond their prescribed syllabus and texts which are often not up to date. This will equip students for the continuous change in the society.\textsuperscript{13}

In order to change the conventional cramming teaching mode and to promote actively the innovation and creation of the teachers’ teaching methods, teaching contents, teaching means and the students’ learning style it is extremely important to promote actively the research-oriented learning activities and develop the reform of research teaching mode. Research-based teaching is a kind of interactive teaching and learning practice. When a teacher use research to inform his or her teaching practice i.e. in the content of lectures and other materials, regularly use ideas and day-to-day examples from his or her own research or that of the department or faculty it helps in clarifying the complex facts and figures and foster student engagement and learning.\textsuperscript{14} Research involves discussion-based, issue-oriented modes and many other kinds of teaching methods to train students to be good at finding and asking questions, to explore and solve the problems.\textsuperscript{15} When students have proper in depth analysis on any topic, the result comes out to be productive and also the knowledge is improved. Other benefits of research to the students are as follows:

1. Enhances the knowledge: When students do research on any topic, they get to know detailed information about that topic. As they gain more the knowledge of the topic, they get more success in the research. So, in order to get good output, the student needs to do maximum research.\textsuperscript{16}

2. Student Engagement: Active engagement of students is essential for learning. Research involves students actively, thereby putting into practice and to draw predominant conclusion from a half century of research on cognitive development. It prepares students for careers by equipping them with the teamwork skills valued by employers. It helps students appreciate multiple perspectives and develop skills to collaboratively address the common problems facing a diverse society.\textsuperscript{17}

3. To have a proper understanding of the subject: To understand the subject, one needs to go in depth of the lines. The cramming of the content will never do any good for the students. To learn the subject and to know the unknown facts, research, detail study and full analysis is the only thing to do.

4. To learn about the methods and issues: Proper reading, research based finding is the only way by which students can learn about the methods and the current issues. Not just the current issues, rather the past issues can also be learned in detail through the research. The research includes various methods by which it can be done.

5. Appreciating and adding to the published work: Research is done through the work already published. The experts and the researchers had already done some of the research and the students are asked to go through that published material to know the idea and the vision of those researchers and to add something new according to new challenges in a particular field of subject.

6. To create a balance between the collaborative and individual work: When the students do research, they get to learn how to create a balance between the collaborative and the individual work. Individual work is which the student has to do, while the collaborative work means that work which has already been done by the previous researchers. So, in this manner, the students get to know which points are to be taken into the consideration and which points are to be ignored.\textsuperscript{18}

7. To know the interest: Participation in research helps students to identify a career path in future. Students who complete research in colleges will get to know their areas of interest from the areas of science,


\textsuperscript{13} http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/p-features/p-opportunities/importance-of-research/article3600155.ece.

\textsuperscript{14} Judi Homewood, \textit{Research Enhanced Learning and Teaching}, Macquarie University, 6, (2011).

\textsuperscript{15} Xinying Shi et. al., “A Study on the Research-Oriented Teaching Courses Reform in Chinese Colleges and Universities”, \textit{International Journal of Information and Education Technology}, Vol. 5, No. 4, April 2015, p. 260.

\textsuperscript{16} Available at https://content.wisestep.com/research-important-students-humans-education/ Accessed on 26-12-2017

\textsuperscript{17} Angela Lumpkin, “Enhancing Undergraduate Students’ Research and Writing”, \textit{International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education}, Vol. 27, No 1, 2015, p. 131.

\textsuperscript{18} https://content.wisestep.com/research-important-students-humans-education/
technology, engineering, or mathematics. Sometimes, the students wish to become researchers only in their near future which is quite helpful. So, through this we come to know that the research not only helps with the achievement of the work, but also helps in knowing what needs to be done in their future.¹⁹

8. To know how the original study originated: Every research is done to know the concept from the scrape. Like, if any student wishes to know from where the concept has originated, he or she could only do it through the research work.

9. Understanding of the rationale: By engaging in the process of research, the students understand the concept in an easier manner as the underlying principle of the topic is known in a better manner. For example, by preparing the hypothesis, one truly understands the meaning of the research topic. Beside this, the research also helps in being a source of one-on-one mentorship which also plays a vital role in the brain development of the individual.²⁰

Conclusion: Research is an integral part of a student’s life. It gives an opportunity to the student for self learning and prepares students for life. The purpose of education is not only collecting degrees but also improve students overall development. It is the duty of a teacher to motivate and inspired students to adopt new approaches of research in going beyond the borders of curriculum. By doing research work, one can contribute to the overall wellbeing of the society. In this way he or she can perform the role of a true educator. In order to understand the society, its rule and other policies research work should be done by all the age groups, whether the students or the teachers.

References:
