Research Ethics and National Education Policy 2020

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the ethical aspects of our research as it has been deteriorating day by day and National Education Policy 2020 which also emphasis on research and its quality. Government efforts, UGC, NCTE, NAAC and other agencies role, University level effort and over all view of our research and its importance, utility and recognition have been discussed in this paper in detail. Recommendations of various commissions and committees in this regard have also been discussed. NCTE-National Council for Teacher Education, NPE –National Policy on Education UGC- University Grants Commission, NAAC- National Assessment and Accreditation Council

Keywords: knowledge, Human, Multidisciplinary,Quality

Introduction

Human beings have unique capacity of thinking, reason, curiosity, question and education. Education is a tool by which culture and civilization have been developed and flourished. Every nation gives importance towards its education system and prepares its citizen accordingly. In the word of Swami Vivekananda, We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet". It is necessary for the development of the nation. The development of a nation is directly linked with its education system as Kothari Commission 1964-66 named its report "Education and National Development". Human being has a sense of question and inquiry and research is the best way to answer their questions and solve problems.

Research:

Research is a systematic process creating and enhancing knowledge by collecting, organizing and analyzing information. In the words of Albert Szent Gyorgyi (Hungarian Biochemist, Nobel Prize – 1937) writes "Research is to see what everybody else has seen and think what nobody has thought". J.W.Best said that, "Research is carefully recorded and reported. Every term is carefully defined, all procedures are described in detail, all limiting factors are recognized, all references are carefully documented and all results are objectively recorded". It is the ability to wonder , especially the ability to wonder at our ability to wonder, is a unique feature of mankind. A systematic process of investigation in any domain of knowledge to find something new for the betterment of human beings. The more we learn about something, we want and become curious about what still remains unknown. Thus the philosophy of human learning is the more we know, we get to know what we still don't know. Aristotle rightly said that, "The more you know the more you know you don't know". Albert Einstein also said that "The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know". Research is all about a systematic process of following rational methods which include questions, hypothesis, unbiased observations, analyzing and concluding ethically to create, generate and enhance knowledge.

Research status:

Generally in academic research we do the Ph.D work, Post doctorate Work known as Pdf, Project work research or industry required based research etc. Formal Ph.D. Work started in Europe in twelfth century and with thesis it took its roots in Europe in

1800 century, it then started in America which later became the major Ph.D producer in India it started very late in the end of nineteenth century when Calkatta University granted first Ph.D. in 1877. Now in a days in almost all the University award the degree of Ph.D by following a process generally submission of thesis after a particular period, evaluation of thesis by two external experts and then viva voce. As per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) about 1.503 million teachers were present to train 38.56 million students, of which 4.312 were in Master's programme and 202,550 in doctoral programmes and during 2019 38,986 students were awarded Ph.D. degrees. OECD data (2013-14) says that in terms of total number of PhD production India stands fifth. The Ph.D number in India compared to US is only 5 percent. Every year Government of India almost award 10000 research fellowships.

Quality Research:

Quality research is a major concern in general and particular today as it is expected that PhD work and other type of research work will create knowledge, enhance knowledge and will be used as a tool in the progress and development of human civilization, it will be original work of the researcher. It will give the direction to the progress in all aspects of human life. It will make our life easy but it seems that most of the universities are following the process and awarding the degree for one reason or other reasons and compromising the originality of research work, as some data revealed. As per Scopus data, about 147,537 articles were published from India. Majority of the research articles published are contributed from over 100 institutes of national importance and from a large number of national laboratories managed through different research councils.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is a statutory organization established by the Government of India (GoI) for the coordination, determination, and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination, and research in university education. India has over 40,000 colleges providing undergraduate courses and over 900 universities focused on postgraduate education and research. India was at position 7 in the SCImago country ranking for 2020 with 2,128,896 cumulative documents. But this ranking came to 21 when citations are considered with h-index 691. The h-index measures both the productivity and citation impact of the publications. Higher value of h-index indicates higher degree of impact. Low h-index clearly means that majority of documents published from India remain uncited, which in turn indicates poor quality, inadequate originality, or relevance. The United States is ranked number one with 13,817,725 documents and h-index 2577. This indicates high quality research output, which in turn may also indicate higher levels of academic integrity. This means that in India a large number of publications have not been cited. India has to take this issue seriously by improving quality and impact of research. Many countries are teaching in their own language and doing best in the field of research and innovation. They are innovating and making many more things but unfortunately we are not properly competing them even we made costly. One of the reports says that …..''according to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), China made as many as 13,38,503 patent applications, with just 10% being made by non-resident Chinese, the USA made 605,571 patent applications, while India made a mere 45,057, of which over 70% were by non-resident Indians''. UGC established National Assessment and Accreditation Council(NAAC) in 1994 to conduct assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) such as colleges, universities or other recognized institutions to derive an understanding of the Quality Status of the institutions for its conformance to the standards of quality in terms of its performance related to the educational processes and outcomes, curriculum coverage, teaching-learning processes, faculty research, infrastructure, learning resources, organization, governance, financial well being and students service. To promote and ensure quality research is a need of hour.

Research Ethics:

According to the great Biologist G.G. Simpson (1950), "It is one of the many unique qualities of man, the new sort of animal, that he is the only ethical animal. The ethical need and its fulfillment are also products of evolution, but they have been produced in man

alone," The human society owes it to evolution to respect and maintain this unique features. In a research we try to know the truth so to say that it lack ethics is paradoxical but as the experience says that many new research reveal varying degree of error in the earlier accepted work which was conducted in the past on the basis of known principles and facts by using the best possible ethical, experimental and other precaution. It does not mean that earlier findings or conclusions arrived by deliberately or by using unethical methods. All work is based on the available knowledge or information available to the investigator at that time. But with the passage of time many things need modifications and some time rejection as it lacks some basis whether it is based on facts, methods, utility or ethics. Now in a day the question on research integrity and ethical conduct arises because of many reasons possibly earlier results or interpretations arrived deliberately or by using biased method or with some other selfish motive. For last four to five decades research ethics have been discussed among the scholars and many countries have suggested and formulated some guideline for research or code of conduct or some principles of research ethics.The International Science Council (ISC), with 40 international scientific unions and more than 140 national and regional scientific organizations has formulated code of conduct for freedom and responsibility in science. The Committee on Publication Ethics or COPE established in 1997 as a non-governmental association to provide advice and guidance on best practice for dealing with ethical issues in journal publishing and "To educate and advance knowledge in methods of safeguarding the integrity of the scholarly record for the benefit of the public." As a general practice, all standard research journals are expected to follow the best-practice guidelines periodically issued by the COPE. The All European Academies (ALLEA) has also formulated conduct for research integrity. In India also many guideline have been formulated by different organization at different levels. The basic principles of research ethics is that it must not harm to the participants in particular and people in general, it should make a positive contribution for the welfare of people, researcher must respect and protect the rights and dignity of participants and the benefit and risks should be fairly distributed among people. As per NCESSRH, 2004, a more evolved set of principles, more appropriate for all is to respect for individuals and respect for groups and institutions. As per guidance document of good academic research practices, the Office of National Integrity need to promote the values of ethics, rigor, relevance, transparency, respect, impartiality, independence and accountability. The codification of research ethics is important in ensuring the relevance of social science research as well as its significance and utility. It also ensures that the best principles of scientific methodology are followed in the social inquiry. But it must be recognized that research ethics is evolving and, in that sense, is fluid rather than dense, although this does not translate to nonchalance in its application. Currently, integrity and freedom, privacy; safety and confidentiality must be ensured.

National Education Policy 2020

In the field of research National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 will be a mile stone as it made all efforts to develop a research ecosystem under the National Research Foundation (NRF), It aims at providing the required impetus to grow the R&D agenda by way of building a research ecosystem comprising the government, universities, research institutes and industry. According to the NEP, "the NRF will work towards seeding, funding, coordinating, and monitoring research and innovation initiatives". It will sponsor the research work apart from the existing bodies like DST,MEITY, DBT. NRF (National Research Foundation) may bring some hope to the younger generation who are keen in excelling in research field.The purpose of NRF is to recognize outstanding research and progress achieved via NRF funding/mentoring across subjects, through prizes and special seminars recognizing the work of the researchers. The proposed NRF in NEP is good if the principles are strictly followed. As per NEP 2020, "The National Research Foundation will fund competitive peer – reviewed grant proposals of all types, across all disciplines". The collaboration between academia and industry envisioned by the

NEP calls for a patent policy structure at the university level to facilitate more patent applications. Such a policy will safeguard interests of all the entities involved, provide for a research environment, and ensure compliance with the national laws and regulations. In USA which is the top country in research and innovation, here proposals can be sent to National Science Foundation, the top research body in USA for review, In India these types of provision should also be made. IITs ,IIScs ,ICSSR are involved in some quality research. Provision of "Assessment and accountability in the new NEP perhaps will help for research and innovation in the country. Encouraging policy change here is permitting the researchers to retain IPR (intellectual property right) will also motivate them. The new NEP 2020 states that .. ""There will be no age limit for Mentors; they will be permitted to serve as Mentors and apply for funding for as long as they are active and add value to their institutions. The expertise of outstanding retired faculty in the country is currently severely underutilized. This will be an invaluable opportunity to utilize their expertise to expand research culture across the country". It will motivate the mentor especially retired persons. The NEP advocates about strong academia-industry relationship. It is a good move though it was there already with a weak linkage. These industries want the results soon so that its profit margin and share price stays high. So the best way is import the idea, product, prototype or formula and implement in the country. This attitude should be discouraged. The current "make in India" policy should be able to solve this issue if strictly implemented by the Govt. "Ease of doing business" policy should come in handy in such cases. If not collaboration or cooperation at least the industries, as envisaged in the new NEP should contribute to NRF. Govt should amend CSR funding norms and permit large profit making industries to contribute to NRF. Good rapport with good/reputed foreign universities the HEI should prove themselves with proven faculty with good publication record and good laboratory facilities. .NEP effort for promoting Research and Innovation ,setting up Incubation Centre, Technology development centre, Centre in frontier areas of

research, interdisciplinary research, multidisciplinary research and provision of establishment of Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU) will help to encourage and promote research in India. A final aspect to consider is that the NEP emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach in education and the need to nurture a curious and creative mind with a view to develop analytical and critical thinking abilities at an early age. These are the skills essential for framing the right research questions and for bringing about the required and relevant outcomes/solutions. This will prove the long term benefit in the field of research in education in India.

Government Measures:

Government of India via its Ministry of Education especially in Higher Education via University Grants Commission (UGC) which is mandated for Coordination and determination of standards in higher education has taken many steps to develop the quality of research and maintain its ethics like establishment of Shodhganga vide its Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2009 Amendment made on 2016) dated 5th May 2016 mandates submission of electronic version of theses and dissertations by the researchers in universities with an aim to facilitate open access to Indian theses and dissertations to the academic community world-wide. As per the Regulation, the responsibility of hosting, maintaining and making the digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertation accessible to all institutions and universities, is assigned to the INFLIBNET Centre. The total number of theses uploaded on Sodhganga till 31.12.2021 is 3,33,333. Established Shodh Gangotri which request to the research scholars / research supervisors in universities to deposit electronic version of approved synopsis submitted by research scholars to the universities for registering themselves for the Ph.D programme. Based on the recommendation of Sub-Committee, National Steering Committee (NSC) of e-ShodhSindhu, The Ministry of Education, Govt. of India has initiated a programme "ShodhShuddhi" which provides access to Plagiarism Detection Software (PDS) to all

universities/Institutions in India since Sept 1, 2019. Central Universities.UGC also decided in 543th meeting held on 09th August,2019 to start a two credits compulsory nature course for awareness about publication ethics and publication misconduct entitled,' Research and Publication Ethics" for all PhD course work .To maintain the standard of the institution of higher education and to improve the quality of research and safeguard publication ethics UGC has established "Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE) for creation and maintenance of "Reference List of Quality Journals". CARE members include Statutory Councils/Academies/Government bodies.

Conclusion:

Indian are always in pursuit of knowledge and Indian system of education always strives for research, progress and development, however due emphasis has not been given to the research and innovation. But unfortunately research could not get priority in our system. No formal policy or documents have been prepared for research. Original research work to create and enhance knowledge need encouragement. To avoid fabrication, falsification, plagiarism and misinterpretation no proper code of conduct or committee on Publication Ethics either at National level, University level, Departmental level or subject level developed as desired. Research culture should be developed. Proper funding is also lacking. Facilities should be provided at the National level and University level to the researcher, industrialists should also be motivated to collaborate and cooperate in the development of research in India. Integrity of research should also be ensured, quality of publication need to be facilitated. Proper allocation of fund for research is required. In service research and research after getting job should be encouraged. Research faculty should also be appointed in our system. Proper ways of publications need to be developed. Need of the hour is to develop the proper way of checking fabrication, falsification, plagiarism and misinterpretation in the research work. There is an urgent need to linkage the research with development and for this research should be done as per requirement and in proper direction. Research mindset should also be developed and scholarship should be provided as per requirement. National Education Policy 2020 is an ambitious policy particularly for the development of research culture and mindset of researchers; therefore there is an urgent need to implement the policy for research and innovation. Efforts should be made to develop public trust in research to build healthy and modern society.

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