

M.Ed. Students Attitude towards Research in Relation to Stream

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Abstract

Present study was undertaken to investigate the significance of difference in M.Ed. students' attitude towards research on the basis of their stream. The study was conducted on 119 M.Ed. students giving equal representation to Government aided and Private colleges of Education (31 students from science stream and 88 students from arts stream) from Ludhiana district of Punjab. Attitude Scale towards Research by Sood and Sharma (2012) was used for data collection. The result of the study revealed that M.Ed. students of science and arts stream do not differ significantly in following dimensions of attitude towards research- General aspects of research and research process, Usefulness of research in professional career, and Relevance of research in personal social life. Whereas M.Ed. students of science stream have significantly better attitude towards research as compared to students of arts stream in dimension Difference in research and research anxiety and total attitude towards research.

KEYWORDS: M.Ed. students, attitude towards research, Government aided colleges, Private colleges.

Introduction

In the fast moving world research has become important intellectual equipment for the human beings to change their life style according to the needs and necessities of the society. Education has important role to play in the development of proper attitude among the young generation to meet the needs of complex developing society.

Education is vitally concerned with the development of healthy attitudes, for it is our attitudes which determine our favorable or unfavorable reactions to environmental stimuli to which we are exposed and to our social, religious and political institutions in the matrix of which we move and develop our personalities and general outlook on life. Education has to ensure right or appropriate experiences for pupils so that they are enabled to cultivate personal, social and moral attitudes worthy of a meaningful and dynamic life.

Attitude towards research

Attitude towards research can be defined as tendency of individual that is expressed by degree of favour or unfavorable towards research. Considering the definition of attitude given by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) the attitude towards research can be defined as learned predisposition to respond in a consistently favorable or

unfavorable manner with respect to research. According to Rezaei and Zamani-Miandasht (2013), "Student's attitude influences how they mentally approach research including all the work related to that research. A positive attitude enables students to solve the problem quickly whereas; a negative attitude hampers the efforts in research".

One's attitude influences mentally how a person mentally approaches research including all the work and human interactions related to the research. A positive attitude enables a person to solve the problem quickly whereas a negative attitude hampers the efforts in research both technical proficiency and in terms of interpersonal relationships that research entails. The attitude influence the around of efforts one is willing to make on learning a particular subject, which in turn influence the selection of more advanced courses in similar areas such as research and statistical oriented courses. Therefore, assessing student's attitude towards research and its related aspects is important in order to enable teacher to develop instructional techniques leading to more positive attitude towards this vital subject. Also, attitude towards research may be considered as the core or pivot for improving quality in research. However, there seems a dearth in the knowledge base concerning imperial investigation related to student's attitude towards research, especially in Indian education scenario.

Review of related literature:

Sridevi (2008) conducted a study on the attitude of M.Ed. students towards research and concluded that irrespective of gender, marital status, and stream all students had favorable attitude towards research. No significant difference was found in the attitude towards research between M.Ed. students of Science and Arts stream.

Butt and Shams (2013) conducted study on two public universities of Pakistan and it was taken by using census sampling technique. The sample consisted of 194 participants. The participants were master in education students in their second semester. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistic, t-test and ANOVA. The result showed that students teacher have a negative attitude towards research.

Manuel, Fenton and Philemon (2013) conducted a study on University of Zimbabwe student's attitude towards quantitative research methods: A comparative / contrastive analysis. The research findings indicated that more psychology than sociology students had positive attitude towards the learning of quantitative research methods and seemed more interested to study the discipline. The method of instruction used seemed to influence the attitudes of the students. The study recommends that the instructional process should be managed in appropriate ways.

Khajuria (2014) conducted a study on 75 post graduation students from Amravati and found that M.C.A. students' attitude toward research was significantly better than that of M.B.A. students.

Singh and Kaur (2015) conducted a research on M.Ed. students from Colleges of Education from Ludhiana district and found that attitude towards research of M.Ed.

students from Government-aided colleges is significantly more as compared to M.Ed. students from Private colleges.

Emergence of the problem

The investigator did not find much research work on attitude towards research of M.Ed. students. Only five studies three in India (Sridevi, 2008; Khajuria, 2014, Singh & Kaur, 2015), one in Pakistan (Butt and Shams, 2013) and one in Zimbabwe (Manuel, Fenton & Philemon, 2013). All these studies have given contradictory results. Not much research work has been done on the proposed study so it seems fully justified.

Objective

1. To investigate the significance of difference in the attitude towards research of M.Ed. students with science and arts stream.

Hypothesis

H01. There will be no significance difference in the attitude towards research of M.Ed. students

Sample

For the present study two stages randomization technique of sampling was used. In the first stage colleges of education were selected, in the secondly 119 M.Ed. students were selected giving equal representation to stream locale and type of college.

Tool

Attitude scale towards Research by Sood and Sharma (2012).

Result and discussion

To investigate the significance of difference in the attitude towards research of M.Ed. students of science and arts stream mean, standard deviation and t-ratio were worked out and the values are given in table below:

Table: Significance of difference in attitude towards research of M.Ed. students with science and arts streams.

Dimensions of Attitude towards research	Classification	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-ratio
General aspects of research and research process	Science (N=31)	48.61	6.22	1.85 (N.S.)
	Arts (N=88)	46.14	6.45	
Usefulness of research in professional career	Science (N=31)	30.51	3.43	0.49 (N.S.)
	Arts (N=88)	29.69	4.00	

Relevance of research in personal and social life	Science (N=31)	30.09	3.17	0.81 (N.S.)
	Arts (N=88)	29.52	3.45	
Difference in research and research anxiety	Science (N=31)	39.12	5.66	1.96**
	Arts (N=88)	37.10	4.65	
Total	Science (N=31)	148.35	14.18	2.03**
	Arts (N=88)	142.46	14.51	

N.S Means non-significant, ** Significant at 0.05 Level

Table reveals that mean scores of M.Ed. students of science and arts streams of General aspects of research and research process are 48.61 and 46.14 respectively. The t-ratio is 1.85. This value (1.85) is non-significant ($p>0.05$). The mean scores of science and arts streams of Usefulness of research in professional career are 30.51 and 29.69 respectively. The t-ratio is 0.49. This value (0.49) is non-significant ($p>0.05$). The mean scores of science and arts streams of Relevance of research in personal and social life are 30.09 and 29.52 respectively. The t-ratio is 0.81. This value (0.81) is non-significant ($p>0.05$). The mean scores of science and arts streams of Difference in research and research anxiety are 39.12 and 37.10 respectively. The t-ratio is 1.96. This value (1.96) is significant ($p=0.05$). The mean and standard deviation of total attitude towards research of science students are 148.35 and 14.18 respectively. The mean and standard deviation of total attitude towards research of arts students are 142.46 and 14.51 respectively. The t-ratio is 2.03 which is significant ($P<0.05$). M.Ed. students of science and arts stream thus do not differ significantly in following dimensions of attitude towards research- General aspects of research and research process, Usefulness of research in professional career, and Relevance of research in personal and social life. Whereas M.Ed. students of science stream have significantly better attitude towards research as compared to students of arts stream in dimension Difference in research and research anxiety and total attitude towards research. The hypothesis H_01 which states that, "There will be no significance difference in the attitude towards research of M.Ed. students with Science and Arts stream," is partially accepted.

Conclusion

M.Ed. students of science and arts stream do not differ significantly in following dimensions of attitude towards research- General aspects of research and research process, Usefulness of research in professional career, and Relevance of research in personal social life. Whereas M.Ed. students of science stream have significantly better attitude towards research as compared to students of arts stream in dimension Difference in research and research anxiety and total attitude towards research.

Implications

The results of the study reveal that M.Ed. students with science stream have significantly better total attitude towards research as compared to their arts counterparts.

It is thus suggested that colleges of should create conditions to develop attitude towards research among the students from arts stream.

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