



A Discipline Based Analysis of Attitude of the Graduate Scholars Towards Research

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Abstract: This research paper aims to discover and compare the approach towards research of those scholars who are graduated in a discipline context and also explore correlation between the graduate scholars' attitude towards research and their academic achievement. The method adopted for this research study was a cross sectional survey. The population of this research study was consist of all the MPhil scholars of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan studying in different disciplines i.e. faculty of social sciences and faculty of physical sciences and biological sciences. The graduate scholars as a sample were selected randomly. The researcher was selected one hundred and forty four MPhil scholars through stratified sampling technique by using online sample calculator. The researcher was developed a research questionnaire under the supervision of supervisor and co-supervisor. Cronbach's alpha was found for such a purpose to check whether the research instrument is valid and reliable or not whose value (0.898) obtained which shows that the research tool was satisfactory. The tool consisted of different statements about the attitude towards research i.e. love for research, difficulty and fear for research, usefulness, Benefits and importance of research. SPSS Version 22 was used for the analysis and interpretation of data of the research tool. One-way ANOVA was used for discipline wise analysis and Pearson r was applied for finding correlation. Data findings were showed that on discipline basis there is no significant difference of $0.127 > 0.05$ found. But a weak significant correlation of 0.231 obtained between academic achievement in a research methodology course and their approach towards investigation/research. It was concluded that "Between the graduate scholars' attitude of different disciplines of the Abdul Wali Khan university Mardan" no significant difference found and a significant weak correlation with academic achievements of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan. It was recommended that more researches would be done at under graduate and post graduate level in order to touch other areas of research and to promote the research culture at college level. Further it was also recommended that at college level the university professor and HEC need to arrange joint research workshops and seminars in order to motivate and guide the students about research.

Keywords: Graduate scholar, research attitude, academic achievement, discipline wise analysis.

1. Introduction

As we know that research is playing a very important role in the advancement of higher education and graduate scholars are the main sources of conducting research there the researcher trying to conduct this study on discipline wise attitude of graduate scholars towards research. This research paper attempts to find out the graduate scholars attitude towards research and to examine the influence of academic discipline and also its correlation with their

academic achievement. The formal and systematic process in which the researcher solve an educational problem scientifically (Mills & Gay, 2016). The negative or positive approach or beliefs of an individual towards any subject is the attitude of that individual. That attitude includes emotions of individual, feelings of individual, ideas of individual, or the behavior of an individual. That's why attitude towards research of graduate scholar is the focus or approach towards research (Zan & Di Martino, 2007). Here the academic achievements mean that from different disciplines, the graduate scholars obtained how many marks in the research course/subject. Many studies have been conducted by Hussain, Ahtar, Abid and Sabir (2016) in which they were found that every creature of this universe get benefit from the research at any stage of life. Therefore, it is necessary to discover the attitude of graduate scholars on the basis of discipline and to relate with academic achievement (Hussain, Akhter, Abid, & Sabir, 2016). Also to train and develop the knowledge and ideas about research of the researcher in different types of disciplines (Belgrave & Jules, 2015). Adams & Holcomb (1986) stated that a large number of scholars show negative attitude and were hesitated feel fear from research work. Furthermore, they stated that graduate scholars were not aware from the importance and benefits of research in their routine lives (Adams & Holcomb, 1986). This research study would motivate, enhanced and also develop the research attitude of the graduate scholars.

1.2 Conceptual Framework of Study

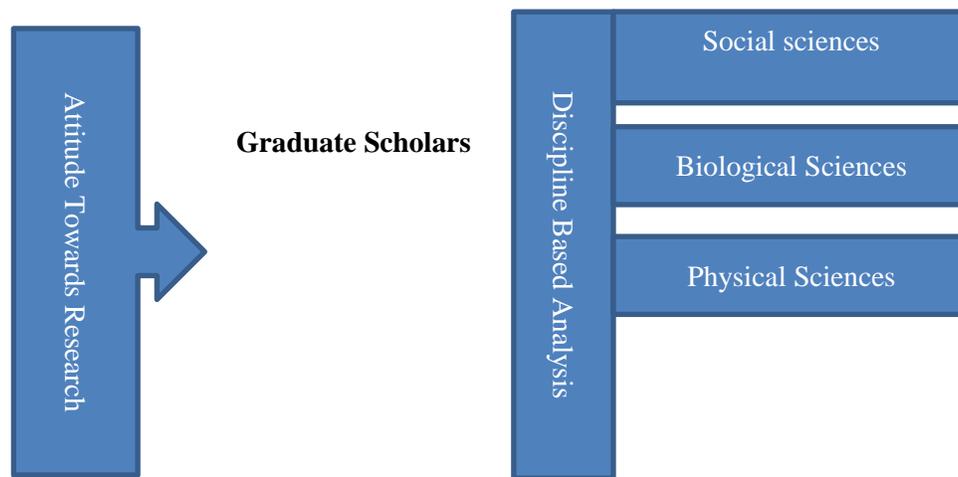


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

The figure 1 describes the conceptual framework of the study. In figure 1 the researcher trying to explain that the research study is about to find out the attitude of the graduate scholars of different disciplines i.e. physical sciences, biological sciences and social sciences. Also the researcher trying to find out the correlations of the above mentioned disciplines with each other's.

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To compare the graduated students' perspectives on the research among different disciplines of AWKU Mardan.
2. To investigate correlation between students' attitudes about research and their academic achievement.

1.4 Research Hypothesis

- H₁: The attitudes of graduate students regarding research among different disciplines do not significantly correlate.
- H₂: There is no significant correlation between attitudes of graduate scholars towards research with their academic achievement.

1.5 Theoretical Framework of the Study

This research work is related and explained under the umbrella of the theory of Reasoned action which provide base for this research. The reasoned action theory provides insights in to the role of attitudes of the individual and also the subjective norms shaping the behavioral intentions of the individual. Here in this context of the study it relates to the engagement of the research activities (Fishbein & Ajzen, 1977). The social cognitive theory of Bandura also offer a lens in order to understand that how observational learning , the self efficacy and the environmental inspirations donates to the development of attitudes and behavior of the individuals'(Bandura, 1986).

1.6 Problem Statement

As we have studied earlier that the previous research studies explored graduate scholars attitude towards research gender wise and discipline wise but still there is a gap remains in the understanding of how these attitudes differ and correlate across academic disciplines and also whether these differences are associated with variations in the research academic achievements(Ali & Ali). So therefore this study finding this gap by conducting a research study i.e. discipline based analysis, aims to compare and correlate the research attitudes among graduate scholars and their prospective influence on research subject success/ achievement.

1.7 Significance of the Study

This research paper clamps significance on numerous fronts. Firstly, this research adds and contributes to literature by studying and finding a discipline based attitudes towards research of specific graduate scholars. Secondly, this research study offers a background for educational institutes plus policy makers and curriculum developers in order to modify intervention and mediations based on the needs of specific discipline and to foster additional conducive environment for research process. Lastly, the correlation analysis with academic achievement of research subject adds an applied breadth which can enhance our sympathetic real outcome connected with different research attitudes.

2. Literature Review

This literature review examines those researches which are already existed on graduate scholars' attitude towards research and have specific focus on variations in research among different disciplines and the correlation between research academic achievement and attitude of the graduate scholars. A study was conducted in which the researchers were found the significant effect/influence on attitude of scholars towards research culture on the basis of discipline (Smith et al., 2018). Also another researcher Brown (2016) found a significant difference among the scholars of different disciplines regarding their behavior towards research work (Brown, 2016). Additionally a research study was conducted by Jones and Wang (2019) in which they were found positive correlation between attitude of students towards research and their research academic achievement. The found review were synthesizes a relevant and according to the need of the paper literature which provide a complete and comprehensive foundation for the present research.

The graduate scholars play a fundamental role in the development and promotion of research at any level the life because these scholars are the building blocks of research. So for the enhancement and success of research advancing at various disciplines the graduate scholars are taken into considerations. It was concluded from the examining of relationship between cognitive and emotional attitude about research at present time and in the future that there was a positive relationship found while conducting research. They also explained the charges of these researches for the development of students skills and motivation for research(Abun, Magallanes, Foronda& Incarnacion, 2021). A research was conducted in order to compare the PhD's scholars and master program scholar's attitude towards research at "Sultan Qaboos University in Oman" in which they were found that PhD's scholars have more positive attitude towards research the master scholars' attitude. The study also identified some academic, personal and environmental factors which are depended on attitude of the scholars towards research(Alazmi & Al-Mahdy, 2022).

Another study was conducted by post graduate scholars attitude towards research on gender basis which concluded that male students show more positive attitude than female and the researcher were recommended to extend this

research study to discipline basis so due to that reason the researcher motivated for doing this research on “a discipline based analysis of attitude of the graduate scholars towards research(Al-Saggaf, Burmeister, & Weckert, 2015).

A comparative study was conducted between post graduate and undergraduate scholars whose result showed that post graduate scholars attitude towards research was positive than undergraduate scholars (Zan & Di Martino, 2007).They also interpreted that the reason for their negative attitude may be they have no special experience in the research process or they may be the new and have not studied the research methodology course very well. While the reason for the positive attitude of post graduate scholars towards research may be they have previous/past research experiences and were familiar to research process and also they know the importance of research for their future life that’s why they were show positive attitude (Papanastasiou, 2005).

3. Methodology

The quantitative method was used for this research study because in quantitative research the researcher selects a large number of respondents as a population of the research and then selects a sample for generating their results and conclusions. This research adopted a design of cross sectional survey. The research process in which the researchers collected the data numerically and then analyzed that numerical data and at last draw a conclusion is called quantitative research. While qualitative research is the opposite of quantitative research in the data were analyzed in a sentence/statement form (Ishtiaq, 2019).

3.1 Procedure of the Study

The population for this study was taken all the MPhil scholars of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan. One hundred and forty four scholars of Master of Philosophy were selected through stratified accidental method of the sampling from above mentioned research’s population. The researcher was developed a questionnaire as a tool for collection of data with the help of research supervisor. The research questionnaire was checked for validity and reliability with finding the cronbach’s alpha and this value was (0.898) which shows the satisfactory value mean that the research questionnaire was satisfactory. The tool mean questionnaire was contained different items about research fear, difficulties, love, usefulness and importance of research that’s checked the attitude of university scholars towards research. The online Google form questionnaire was generated and is used for data collection. Keeping in mind the objectives of the study the researcher used SPSS version 22 for the analysis and interpretation of the collected data. One Way ANOVA and Pearson r was used in order to analyze the data and draw conclusion.

4. Data Analysis

Table 1: Quantity of the respondents from different faculties

Gender	Quantity of the Faculty of social sciences department scholars	Quantity of the Faculty of physical sciences department scholars	Quantity of the Faculty of biological sciences department scholars
Male	25	24	20
Female	23	24	28
Total	48	48	48

Total number of male and female respondents= 144

Table 1 shows the quantity of respondents of different faculties. There we have in the table one hundred and forty four total respondents which consist of twenty five male and twenty three female from the faculty of social sciences whose total number 48 and from faculty of physical sciences there are twenty four male and twenty four female whose total quantity 48 and from faculty of biological sciences there are twenty male and twenty eight female whose total sum is also 48. So these are the total respondents of the research study.

H₀1: The attitudes of graduate students regarding research among different disciplines do not significantly correlate.

Table 2: Faculty wise analysis of the attitude of graduate scholars towards research

S.No	Summation	Sum of Squares	Degree of Freedom (DF)	Mean Square (MS)	Frequency (F)	Level of Sig.
1	Between Groups	1.106	1	1.001	1.453	.127
2	Within Groups	104.787	143	.601		
3	Total	105.893	144			

The given table 2 shows that discipline wise analysis of the attitude of graduate scholars towards research have no significant difference/relationship found between the groups and there level of significance is (0.127>0.05) and the mean square value is 1.001 with the degree of freedom (DF) is 1. So in the light of the result of the table 2 the zero guess accepted and there is an insignificant relationship among the approach towards research of the university students of different disciplines.

H₀2: There is no significant correlation between attitudes of the university graduate researchers towards research with their academic achievement.

Table 3: Correlation among the graduate scholars’ research attitude and their research academic achievement.

		Summation	Marks/ scores in the research subject
Attitude of graduate scholars toward research	Pearson correlation	1	.231**
	Significant (2-tailed)		.001
	Number of the respondents (N)	144	144
Marks/ academic achievement	Pearson Correlation	.231**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	144	144

** . Correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed)

The above table 3 shows the Pearson correlation value whose found that there is significant weak correlation (.231) among the attitude of graduate scholars towards research and their research subject achievement. Also a significant 2-tailed value is (.001) found with total number of respondents are 144. It means that there is weak relationship between the academic achievement in the research subject and approach of researchers to exploration.

4.1 Findings

All of the aims of research keeping in mind and from the data analysis it was found that present study show no momentous variance between the attitudes of the university students to investigation discipline-wise. The value for this insignificance was (.127) which is greater from the level of significance 0.05. Also the mean square value was found (1.001) and the value of the degree of freedom was found 1. Similarly in this study another result showed that

correlation of approach of the graduated learners to investigation and their academic achievement was weak (.23) which means that there is weak correlation. And the value of Pearson correlation significant 2-tailed was found (.001).

5. Conclusion

This research study concludes by summarizing the key finding, emphasizing discipline based analysis of the approach of those researchers who are graduated from research also highlighting the correlation with research academic achievement. So this research finding was concluded and showed no significant variance between outlooks on the way to enquiries among different disciplines. Also it was concluded a significant weak correlation between the attitude of the scholars towards research and research subject academic achievement.

5.1 Recommendation

It was recommended that according to the needs of the specific department a mentorship initiatives programs should arrange for the tailoring of scholars to poster positive research attitude. It was also recommended that the policy makers may have to update the curriculum of the research and those items would have to include in the course which is practical, activity based and interesting plus motivating for the students. It was recommended that more researches would be done at under graduate and post graduate level in order to touch other areas of research and to promote the research culture at college level. Further it was also recommended that at college level the university professor and HEC need to arrange joint research workshops and seminars in order to motivate and guide the students about research.

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