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Attitude towards Research among M. Ed Students

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Abstract

A study was conducted to find out the level of attitude of M. Ed students towards research program. The sample consists of one hundred M. ED students randomly selected from six college of education in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu. The sample was subjected to survey method and their attitude was checked using self standardized attitude scale (consists of 38 test items). The data collected was analyzed statistically using SPSS. The result revealed that sample shows favourable attitude towards research. Significant difference exists in the M. Ed students attitude towards research with respect to different demographic variables.

Keywords: attitude; research program

1. 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. Research opens new frontiers in all the fields like medicine, agriculture, space, business, and also in Education. One of the important objectives of teacher education is to create awareness and understanding of importance of research in the classroom. Thus, Action research became a part of the syllabus where in, the students are expected to prepare action plans and implement the same during their practice teaching sessions. This, in turn is strengthened in the Post Graduate Programmed of Education where in Dissertation was made a compulsory component by of. The main aim of the M.Ed course is to provide capabilities of serving community in general and developing research attitude and skills among the students in specific. These students in future have to promote interest towards research among the B.Ed. students when they take up their jobs as teacher educators.

Research is the systematic process of collecting and analyzing information to increase our understanding of the phenomenon under study. It is the function of the researcher to contribute to the understanding of the phenomenon and to communicate that understanding to others.

It provides rewarding learning experiences for students, and producing graduates capable of high personal and professional achievement. The strategy underpinning the courses like M.Ed. is to provide a framework for the acquisition and progressive development of knowledge throughout the learning experience, to stimulate inquiry into subjects and to develop personal skills which will equip students for life-long learning. Educational research is often undertaken for the sake of Degree and not with a goal to make a significant discovery. It is also commented that research has become imitative, repetitive; only oriented towards western culture and philosophy; instrument oriented rather than goal oriented; statistics dependent in place of mastery of knowledge domain; and lastly is not out of interest, aptitude of the students. Other factors that affect the quality of research conducted by the students are facilities available, mentors, departmental activities, attitude of both staff and students towards research, confidence etc.

Attitude towards research of the staff enhances enthusiasm and credibility among the students. One's attitude influences mentally how a person mentally approaches research including all the work and human interactions related to that 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.

Need and Significance of the Study

Students are the backbone of the educational process. Education is a process and acts as an instrument to bring out innate behavior of the individual. The destiny of a nation lies in its classrooms. The strength of our nation depends on the teacher's ability to rear well-educated,

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responsible, well adjusted youth who will step forward when the adult generation passes on to retirement. The student of today are the youths of tomorrow and future citizens of the country, therefore it is re responsibility of teachers, society and government to see that they are physically, mentally, emotionally and educationally healthy. The needful steps taken at this period ensures a healthy democracy in the country.

The research enrollment in India is very less than the other developing countries and developed countries. Only very few of them enroll in research related activities. It may be due to the lack of research related activities. It may be due to the lack of research attitude pressure on pursuing the research studies. Therefore, the investigator interested to know the research aptitude level and their pressure on the mindset of the college students. The finding of the study will yield fruitful on the field of educational research. So, the present study has high need and importance.

Objectives of the Study

To find out the attitude level of M. Ed college students' attitude towards research

To find out the significant mean difference in the attitude of M. Ed students towards research with respect to different demographic variables (Gender; type of institution; locality; type of family and birth order)

Hypotheses of the Study

The sample shows unfavorable attitude towards research
 There is no significant mean difference in the attitude of M. Ed students towards research with respect to different demographic variables (Gender; type of institution; locality; type of family and birth order)

Delimitation of the Study

- This study is confirmed to Vellore District of Tamil Nadu State only.
- It is confirmed itself to the 6 M. Ed college students are studying in various colleges in Vellore district.

Method: Normative survey method was adopted for the present study

Tool Used

The Attitude scale to elicit the level of attitude of the sample towards research consists of 38 statements, each statement in this attitude scale was set against four alternative response, they are Agree, Strongly Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree. Bothe positive and negative test items are shuffled in the tool and was given to the sample.

Scoring Procedure

The scoring procedure for positive items was that the response made in the strongly agree column yield 4 marks, followed by 3 for agree; 2 for disagree and one for strongly disagree. Likewise for negative items the scoring was reversed (1 for strongly agree; 2 for agree; 3 for disagree and 4 for strongly disagree)

Sample of the Study

The sample for the present study consists of 100 M. Ed students procured from six M. Ed colleges students studying in various colleges, in Vellore District, Tamil Nadu. The sample was selected by using simple random sampling technique.

Administration of the Tool

The investigator administered the tools of the study individually with prior permission from the M. Ed colleges in Vellore District. The investigator given brief introduction about his research also provides guidance to the M. Ed college students. Whenever they face problem the researcher clarified immediately. After that the investigator collected the data with warm welcome from the students. In this manner, the investigator collected all the research tools from the selected sample.

Result and Interpretation

The collected data was analyzed statistically using SPSS and the result was presented in the table 1 and 2.

Table 1: shows the attitude of overall sample towards research

Factor Area	Description	Range of Raw Score	
		Number	Percentage
Attitude towards research	Low	18	18.33
	Moderate	55	55
	High	27	26.67

From the above table it is clear that the level of attitude towards research of M.Ed. trainees is marginally positive in nature. Hence the stated **hypothesis 1 is rejected.**

Table 2: shows significant mean difference in the attitude of M. Ed students towards research with respect to different demographic variables.

Variables	Sub variables	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Gender	Male	62	74.11	13.71	8.27*
	Female	48	60.68	10.87	
Locality	rural	43	68.62	11.60	1.82**
	urban	57	71.14	12.84	
Type of family	Nuclear	70	65.25	11.08	4.87*
	Joint	30	77.13	9.63	
Type of institution	Government	25	64.04	14.82	2.72*
	Private	75	59.08	9.62	
Birth order	First	37	73.54	11.62	1.78**
	Second and subsequent	63	68.75	7.44	

*Significant at 0.05% level

** Not significant

The tabulated result revealed that there is no significant mean difference exists in the level of attitude of M. Ed trainees with respect to their locality and birth order.

Major Findings

The attitude of M. Ed trainees towards research is favourable. There is significant difference between the Male and Female M. Ed College Student with respect to attitude towards research score. (Male exceed the female with respect to mean score)

There is significant difference between the Nuclear and Joint Family M. Ed College Student with respect to attitude towards research score. (members from joint family shows high mean scores than those from nuclear family)

There is significant difference between the Type of Institution College Student with respect to attitude towards research score. (Government college students shows high mean score in the attitude towards research than their counterparts).

Educational Implication

The findings of the study reveal that there is a lacuna between the study program and the attitude of the learner. Hence the

gap can be sealed using varied programs that foster their attitude towards research programs. A brief orientation in the form of invited talk; refresher course; short term project may be conducted to instill favorable attitude among the learners towards research.

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