



## Attitude of students towards research: A review

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### Abstract

The present study examined the attitudes of students towards research. The purpose of this study was to explore the student's attitude towards research. What is students' feeling and thinking about research and what are their attitudes. A review study was conducted to examine the research attitudes. Hence, review report generalized research attitudes which are positive and negatives. More attention should be paid to understand student's anxiety about research which is connected with the student's attitude.

**Keywords:** attitudes, anxiety, research

### 1. Introduction

Attitude is prepared to act to certain issues. What constitutes these could be emotions, feelings, fear, anxiety, and prejudices. According to some researchers, Attitude is not an innate tendency but it is learned. Attitude is organized through experience. It is noted that an attitude is dependent on learning or social interaction. According to Mehdipour & Balaramulu (2013) [8], Attitude is the expression of inner feelings and beliefs, reflecting whether a person has advantage or disadvantage of a pre-processing phenomenon. (Swindoll, Abraham (2012; 2003) argue that attitudes are more important than academic preparation and experience. Some researchers such as Idu (1988), Omirin (1999), Adebule (2002) [1] and Aborisade (2008) showed many but similar patterns of attitude formation, that the main sources of attitudes include emotional effects of experiences, environmental assimilation, and direct intellectual processes. Furthermore, with the submission of Bandele (2004) stated that attitude is an abstraction formed from the emotions and feelings of people. An attitude is a psychological term and can be defined as "a tendency to observe a particular object or response with a certain degree of preference". Attitudes are usually understood as subjective evaluation (which involves the costs and benefits of a rational assessment) but are also influenced by affective and emotional reactions and related beliefs. Attitude is an emotional relationship or tendency of an object, institution or person and that relationship might be positive or negative (Le Roux 1994). According to Brecker and Wiggins (1991) "attitudes are acquired through experience as a persistent non-verbal feature of social and material worlds and exert a directive influence on behavior". Chambers *et al*, (1986) pointed out that feelings and information are key factors in the formation of attitudes, which are a key component of understanding. Attitudes and opinions are closely related. However, a person can express his views in word but cannot express his attitude through his action. According to Lord (1997:222), the attitude has three main factors:

1. Cognitive factor
2. Emotion/feelings or affective factor &
3. Response/action or behavioural factor.

### 2. Review of related Literature

The research attitude is primarily about thinking, feeling and the individual's research behavior. It also defines the behaviour of a person in the field of research and importance he gives to the different aspects of research. Papanastasiou (2005) [11] pointed out that study the research attitudes is very important. Suresh Kumar (2015) [5] pointed out that sample shows favourable attitude towards research. Memarpour (2015) [9] concluded in his study that students demonstrate good research knowledge but their research attitudes were not enough. Impact of research barriers and difficulties factors suggests that more information is needed to solve the problems and change the research strategies. Saeidinia *et al*, (2013) pointed out in her research that the most students had negative research attitudes in research activities and the student's research performance was very weak. The study further demonstrated that most students' abilities and insight were weak in research activities.

Bandele and Adebule (2013) [1] showed that irrespective of the type of gender and faculty of the students they are similar in their research work attitude mode. It can be concluded that almost all the graduating students had a negative attitude towards research work which is not a welcomed development if a nation is to have a breakthrough in technology and research. In the University Education of Nigeria stakeholders should develop incentives and means of encouraging the students towards research work. Bhangare (2014) noted that most of the students' attitude towards research was positive. Positive research attitude has been a repeatedly finding in almost all studies from within and outside the country, and gives hope that given further amendments in the right direction the education program will see high-quality research work being taken up by doctors. According to La-zar (1991) in his research study found that faculty perceived students as having a more negative attitude toward research courses than the students actually reported.

Saleem (2014) pointed out that the optional status of the thesis at MS/MPhil level for the students of social science, arts and humanities in the private universities is another cause of the high fee payers' negative attitude towards research. In fact the students are not oriented with the

practical aspects of research, consequently, they find it difficult to develop a positive attitude towards research. In another aspect, negative attitude towards the usefulness of research might be an indication of the fact that students are still not aware of the professional responsibilities. As far as the negative correlation between fee and research anxiety and difficulty in terms of it again reflects that as the level of fee raises the students become more reluctant in research because of their better financial status and relaxed habits in everyday life. Dunn *et al.*, (2008) argued that student teachers, after taking a course, described research as being equally important and planned to do it in the future themselves. Our study showed a significant difference, as students described teacher research as more important in comparison to the extent to which they were planning on executing our research or using it in practice. Furthermore, the students also stated that teacher research is important, but that they did not equally enjoy it or use it as a (prospective) teacher. Research anxiety is often discussed in statistics, mathematics and computer anxiety (Green *et al.*, 2001; Hopko, 2003; Piotrowski, Bagui, & Hemasinha, 2002; Wells, 2006).

According to (Montcalm 1999) anxiety can be an obstacle for acquiring research knowledge and skills. According to the study of Wells (2006), a student's anxiety becomes a problem, especially as it affects research practice. Pan and Tang (2005) observe that statistics related anxiety has grown in the last decade. Green *et al.* (2001) in his study found that social work students reported more computer anxiety than a comparison group.

According to Williams & Coles (2003) in their research study revealed that teachers in the 20-30 years age group have a better attitude than teachers in other age groups. Back 30 years and older age group subjects' positive attitude's reason could be that because this is the critical stage of their careers, so they give great importance to the research. According to the study of Costello (1991) men have a more positive attitude towards research than women, because it is a male-dominated field. Butt & Shams (2013) stated that possible reasons for this finding may be due the male's assumption that the research is useful for their professional career.

### 3. Conclusion

It is concluded that research students' attitudes are connected with difficulties which encounter anxiety and stress among research students. This review study reveals that almost researchers' attitude is negative towards research. There is a need to provide many research facilities for research students which will bring positive attitudes towards research among them. Finally, it was suggested that planning and performance of more investment is required to improve students' knowledge and activity towards research. If they will be facilitated well researchers will focused more on research.

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