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**RESEARCH PAPER**

# An Investigations into the Problems Faced by Male and Female Research Students at University Level

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| PAPER INFO | ABSTRACT |
|---|---|
| | This research study was conducted to discover research students'problems during their research work. It further compared how these problems vary by student gender, program of study and availability of facilities at the concerned university. Instrument of this research was pilot tested on 15 students at University of Faisalabad. Then the final instruments were administered to the sample to get required data. Inferential statistics was used to analyze data. Research problems of the researchers measured by applying t test and ANOVA test on SPSS software. Also ordinal least of dependent variables were used to find out the research problems. Result of this study elaborated that lack of financial resources, lack of available sufficient facilities at university level and time management on the part of researcher were the problems were faced by the both male and female research scholar |

## Introduction

As human beings, we begin learning at the earliest stages of our lives. These thinking lead us to find out the alternate reality. For sustainable development, research is the essential foundations of the long term development policies. For a nation wealth and also a well-being of its citizen's research plays an essential function. National and global development of the country is possible through universities research. Research is also a procedure to find the answer of the question and also decree of a problem. Research is considered as lived experience. It is a challenge to understand that research giving meaning to the every person's experiences by using interpretive and recognize the symbolic use of accounting (Boland & Pondy, 2005).

Research is one of the words which are used in everyday speech. Especially this word is more reliable in academic world. Research is the activity which deals the

subject of debate. Research is the activity which follows the scientific method to find out the answer of the hidden questions. When a researcher finds the answer of the hidden questions he/she faced many obstacles which make causes of the research problems. So, we can say that research crisis is the sensitivity of a study. Research problem is a clear statement of the concern of the area for investigation and by evidence (Bryman, 2007).

There are two sources which come to tend ideas for a research problem. One is real life and second scholarly arena. Researchers also get two sources which make helpful for collect data about the statement of the problem. One source is known as 'Primary sources' and other on as secondary sources. Primary source of the research is concerned for collection the data with real person. By this source researchers, will collect the data about research problem from the real persons who's alive at the time. Secondary source of research leads to the primary. Which mean second person represent the information about the primary or first person. A researcher can be investigating a simple research problem as well as difficult and also take data by using of both resources of research. Research issues can be faced by researchers relating in local workplace as well as international etc. These issues may relate to your daily basis in your workplace or questions in your field. Which issues and obstacles which you face in your really life this may become for developing a research problem. Alternatively, statement of the problem may also identified by reviewing current literature, reports, or databases in concern field. Reports and data bases may suggest the potential research problem and see theories you need to investigate or tested provide opportunity to develop a research problem (Kebritchi, 2017).

When a researcher select topic for investigation for his/ her research study, he/she also face different kinds of hurdles which can disturb his/her research work. These problems may be concern with researcher personal needs or others etc. Here we present the some obstacles which face by the researchers. When the researchers plan for the research work, we should also aware of different kind of the methodological challenges associated with their research. Reason is behind, that many hurdlers relate to population access, representation of sample and sampling techniques to identify and obtaining, some also face cultural and language obstacles, limitations of cultural validated instruments (Thomas & Lau, 2002).

For improving the quality of research, it is necessary to solve the hidden obstacles relate to research work. Reduce the data collection error by trained the researchers that how to motivate their respondents. It is true we do not eliminate them altogether (Ehntholt & Yule, 2006).It is true that developing and response the questionnaires are more time consuming activity for the both of researchers, respondent and administer impact. It is important for the researchers they already decide how and where the questionnaires are administered. Time and money is another obstacles which faced by the researcher. It is right statement time is money if you waste your time which means you wasted money. But researchers have waste this during their research work for information collection. Lack of technology is also a

major issue which faced by the researcher for find the research materials. Lack of confidence is also a major issue for the researchers in their work (Jung, 2012).

**Review of Literature**

It reviews the research problems which faced by researchers during their research work. Many authors described various definitions of research. Some writers said research is a systematic activity and revealed new thing. It is truly said about research is a scientific thinking with makes use of methods and systems for deriving truth. It is true that every kind of research work depends on more expenses and countless costing no matter it relates to science field or art but in both field researchers can do their work but having sufficient cost, time and money etc. Researchers have to invest money as well as time but required timing and money is not being invested on the research which obviously gives no satisfactory results. During research activities, the researcher has to waste some time and produce some expenditure for completion this activities. We can say that the term research is very elaborate in terms of preparation and funding. But it is the requirement for researchers that despite adequate planning is major step for this activity because the practical part of the research is unknown. For many times most of the researchers faced obstacle to find data or information from their study population or area of study. After collected data it is frustrating for researchers if the expected result or outcome is fruitless. Here an example of this is that in ICT, the government has been failed to invest enough to support the ever growing technological field (Ankin, Ankin, &Ankur, 2016).

**Academic Research in Higher Education Institution**

Distribution is constantly viewed as the most important resource and the most well-known approach to relate it in a referred to diary. As per Shaywitz (2003), in every single scholastic control, scholarly profitability is a key marker of vocation achievement. Also, inquire about efficiency is known as a proportion of accomplishment of profession accomplishment, enthusiasm for in-class positioning and esteem in the association's quality and employees. "Post or annihilate" has consistently been utilized as an approach to assess employees' presentation, particularly as far as development, pay increments and agreement restorations (McGrail, Richard and Jones, 2006). An enormous number of studies have analyzed the job that scholastic research plays in advanced education foundations (Alzahraniet al., 2011; Jenkins, 2004; Jenkins, et al., 2003; Crongnale,2013; Council on Higher Education, 2014).

**Factors that Affect Faculty Research**

A lot of research has investigated the components of variables that add to and/or influence the profitable limit of personnel examine. As per Aboucheid and Abdulnour (2015), "the pace of personnel investigate in the Arab world is generally low". In the wake of examining the real information got from an example of advanced education organizations in six Arab nations, they recognized that components should be considered in characterizing the efficiency capability of undergrad inquire about, "

The general fulfillment level of the scholastic staff, the socialization of workforce staff individuals in the examination condition, and the scholarly research as indicated by the crucial the college "(Aboubedid & Abdulnour, 2015).

**Lack of Financial Resources Hurdle**

It is true that every kind of research work depends on more expenses and countless costing no matter it relates to science field or art but in both field researchers can do their work but having sufficient cost, time and money etc. Researchers have to invest money as well as time but required timing and money is not being invested on the research which obviously gives no satisfactory results. During research activities, the researcher has to waste some time and produce some expenditure for completion this activities. We can say that the term research is very elaborate in terms of preparation and funding. But it is the requirement for researchers that despite adequate planning is major step for this activity because the practical part of the research is unknown. For many times most of the researchers faced obstacle to find data or information from their study population or area of study. After collected data it is frustrating for researchers if the expected result or outcome is fruitless. Here an example of this is that in ICT, the government has been failed to invest enough to support the ever growing technological field. It is absolutely right that the process of developing reliable and dynamic software is quite involving and requires a lot of funds. Contrary, researchers who are willing to venture into ICT are few and less competent and therefore may be unable to beat time constraints. According to the view of statistics in Kenyan had shown that most research students were unaware to endeavor into research project. The reason is behind that they have been not much raise capital. But state are the responsible that the apparently, support for new researchers but it is below the required standards. It is true that the government institutions have being face difficult to finance research projects and also complex to measure success and infrastructure (Peterson, 2006).

Therefore, it is truly said about that for performing a quality research tasks sufficient funds are not provided. This discourages research of all types. Governments sectors are failed to appreciate or provide appropriate contributions for research findings and to economic status development. The reason is behind that state does not offer adequate amounts for researchers or all types of research works.

**Research Design**

The study explored the hurdlers faced by the researchers at university using descriptive research. Current situations or hurdlers are discussed in this research. This research presented the descriptive results which deal with the situation or conversation, placed the ideas, see the procedures that are going on, or that things are developing.

**Population**

In Pakistan, there is a Punjab province, there are thirty six districts but this research was delimited in district Faisalabad. Faisalabad is the third largest city in province of Punjab there are four government universities. Population of this research consists of these four government universities.

**Sample of the Study**

Researcher has selected 400 research students/scholars from these universities as sample of this study by using the convenient sampling technique.

**Tool of Research**

Nature of this study was survey. The researcher selected questionnaire as a research tool for this study which was developed by the researcher

**Pilot Study**

The researcher conducted the pilot study by involving 20 research scholars at GCUF to fill the questionnaire. The purpose of conducting pilot study was to ensure the reliability and effectiveness of the questionnaire in providing the necessary data for the research.

**Validation of Tool**

Validity is defined as what you want to measure and it also truly said that a valid data must be reliable but reliable data may not be valid (Korb, 2012).The questionnaire is developed by the researcher with the help of literature and experts' opinion. The validity of questionnaire was ensured by expert opinion

**Reliability Scale of Research Tool**

The value of Cronbach's alpha was .920) for the questionnaire of university students. This is in excellent range. So, this scale is reliable and researcher can used this tool for this research.

**Results and Discussion**

The table 1 shows the psychometric properties of the research problems faced by the students. In table 1 the first factor of the research hurdle was included researches' lack of financial resources *(M=3.15, SD=.75)* .The second factor was defined as the factor 'Researchers' Lack of available sufficient facilities at university' *(M=3.06, SD=.81)*. The third factor was the 'Research hurdle related to Supervisor' *(M=2.87, SD=.87)*.The fourth factor is included the 'Researchers' Time Management Problems/problems in research work' *(M=3.02, SD=.93)*. The fifth factor was included the researchers' lack of personal motivation in research work' *(M=3.05, SD=.88)*.

**Table 1**
**Psychometric Properties of the Research Problems**

| Problems | N | M | SD | Range | | Skew | Kurtosis |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Potential | Actual | | |
| Lack of financial resources | 400 | 3.15 | .75 | 1-5 | 1-5 | 0.00 | -0.48 |
| Lack of available sufficient facilities at university | 400 | 3.06 | .81 | 1-5 | 1-5 | -0.06 | -0.18 |
| Research hurdle related to Supervisor | 400 | 2.87 | .87 | 1-5 | 1-5 | -0.04 | -0.65 |
| Time Management Problems/problems | 400 | 3.02 | .93 | 1-5 | 1-5 | -0.13 | -0.74 |
| Researchers' lack of Personal motivation in Research work | 400 | 3.05 | .88 | 1-5 | 1-5 | 0.04 | -0.73 |
| Researchers' insufficient Information communication technology/ICT skills | 400 | 2.86 | .78 | 1-5 | 1-5 | 0.27 | -0.48 |
| **Total** | **398** | **3.01** | **.55** | **1.39-4.42** | **1-5** | **-0.07** | **-0.26** |

The six factor is included the 'Researchers' insufficient Information communication technology/ICT skills' and mean score of this factor was *(M=2.86, SD=.78)*.And also Kurtosis and skewness values of each indicator were given in above table. Table 1 was shown the normality data for each factor of research problems by mentioned the skewness and kurtosis values. Because normal values of the kurtosis is -2 to +2 and skewness values fell within the range of -1 to +1.

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**Lack of Financial Resources**

Table 2 illustrates that the results of about this statement ''I face hurdle to invest a lot of amount for research work (Typing, editing, printing etc)''.Descriptive result of the table (*M= 4.15 and S.D= .736*) also supported this research hurdle item and responses of the researchers were 49(12.3%) strongly disagreed, 78(19.5%) disagree, 56(14%) undecided, 140(35%) agreed and 77(19.3%) strongly agreed with this research hurdle.

**Table 2**
**I face hurdle to invest a lot of amount for research work. (Typing, editing, printing etc)**

| Researchers' Responses | Frequency (f) | Percent (%) | Mean | SD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 49 | 12.3% | | |
| Disagree | 78 | 19.5% | | |
| Un-Decided | 56 | 14% | 3.30 | 1.31 |
| Agree | 140 | 35% | | |
| Strongly Agree | 77 | 19.3% | | |
| **Total** | **400** | **100.0** | | |

It is truly said about research activity is linked to the researcher's intention, purposes of their research task and also paradigm. Many people think this term as gathering information but scientific use this term in more specific manner. According to scientific context research activity refers start and ends to following scientific method. In scientific method the procedure of gathering knowledge or information is called a 'review'. In scientific context' research term refers as an experiment which finds out new things about phenomena and also variable must be manipulated (Shuttleworth& Wilson, 2008).

By following scientific methods researchers finds out the research problems by following different research types such qualitative, quantitative and also mixed research methods. These research categories define the nature of the research. Researchers will follow these research types to finds out the research phenomena. During research work researchers faces many challenging which make the reasons of research problems. These problems may be related to right choose of research topic, right methodology, institutions to participate, finding research participant, financial related problems, insufficient institutes given facilities to researchers, researchers lack of inner motivation, Time management obstacles, supervisor related problems and also insufficient information communication researchers' skills etc (Creswell, J. W. (2013).

For this research purpose, researcher selected the four universities in district of Faisalabad. In district of Faisalabad there are four government universities which name as Government College, Agriculture, Education and Government College for Women University. There were 400 research students in these universities as a sample for this research work. Research problems of the researchers measured by applying t-test and ANOVA test on SPSS software. And also ordinal least of dependent variables were used to find out the research problems.

Majority of researchers cannot manage time due to some reasons. Some researchers have weak cooperation from their family for doing their research within time, they do not frequently meet their supervisors for discussion about their research topic, they do no consume a lot of time for collection, analysis and interpretation for their research problem.Although these are the few reasons which have badly impact on researchers' performance during their research activities. It is true that every researcher requires more time to completion their research work. Reason is behind that

research activity has been conducted effectively manage time one's and also done this activity within deadline (Claessens et al, 2007).

Researchers' performance can be effected by if they have lack of financial resources in their research activity. Which one hurdle is lack of financial resources, some researchers face problems to invest huge amount of money for purchasing online material for fulfillment of their research work. They face difficulty to have sufficient research resources such as internet packages, laptop, and research books, research software etc. So, lack of financial resources create hurdle for researcher during their research work and also some time they make incompetent in their research task. It is truly said in area of education both financial resources and quality of education is the first priority to achieve excellent result in related to education field (Bura, 2015).

**Conclusions**

Objective of this research task was to investigate the problems faced by the research students at university level. For this research purpose, researcher selected the four universities in district of Faisalabad. In district of Faisalabad there are four government universities which name as Government College, Agriculture, Education and Government College for Women University. There were 400 research students in these universities as a sample for this research work. Research problems of the researchers measured by applying t test and ANOVA test on SPSS software. And also ordinal least of dependent variables were used to find out the research problems. Result of this study elaborated that lack of financial resources, lack of available sufficient facilities at university and time management research problems were faced by the both male and female research scholar.

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