

# EDUCATION: A VAST FIELD FOR RESEARCH

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**Abstract:** India, our motherland is always being recognized as a land of learned and learners. India is a land of 'Guru-Shishya Parampara' where guru not only passes the knowledge he/she possess but also sway the life of student to explore the world and new opportunities. For exploring the new, need and importance of research can easily be felt. Education provide wide scope for research in various fields including Educational Psychology, Educational Philosophy, Educational Sociology, Teaching- Learning Techniques, Curriculum Framework, Measurement and Evaluation methods in Education, Teacher Education, Educational Guidance, Classroom and Institutional Environment, Values and Educational Objectives and Educational Administration and Management. The importance of research is being taken up by the NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) and even the UGC (University Grants Commission) assist researchers by various ways considering research in education as one of the priority concern.

**Keywords:** Education; Research; NAAC; UGC

**Introduction:** Education system of India is not only one of the largest but also successful in covering the diverse population. Due to diversity and constantly changing trends, the improvement or remodeling in the system is taking place from time to time. Education not only provides one with knowledge, wisdom and understanding but also the sources for livelihood and a societal standing. It is well said that a person who doesn't possess education especially in the present scenario is like a body without mind. India, our motherland is always being recognized as a land of learned and learners. India is a land of 'Guru- Shishya Parampara' where guru not only passes the knowledge he/she possess but also sway the life of student to explore the world and new opportunities.

Education and learning although covers the whole lifespan or an individual since birth to death but the formal or school education starts with the pre-primary classes and generally comes up till research or in simple terms Ph.D.. But only attaining the degree of Ph.D. is not the actual understanding for the term research as Research is a vast and diverse field to come up with like doctoral, post-doctoral, projects, inventions and discoveries etc. Education and Research are the two face of a same coin. As Education develops knowledge, knowledge motivate for research, research develops or provide with updated knowledge or ongoing processes which in turn remodel the education system. Thus it can be signified that "Education without Research will be obsolete and Research without Education will be improbable".

Etymologically, Research is considered as again and again searching for the results by taking objectives centralized, but it will be unfair to limit it at this point only as research can make impossible things possible. It is well said that when someone enters the mine, along with coal it finds diamonds as well

but the need of systematic planning and hard work is a priority concern. Thus Research can be understood as a systematic effort to verify the old theories and to even explore the new ones.

The area of research cannot be delimited as the scope of research is in various field but when research is done in the field of education to ascertain principles, theories and develop techniques, procedures in education and educational practices, it come up as educational Research. Research in Education focuses on developing and improving processes in education, for exploring new practices and even for verifying the old ones in present scenario. Research in Education basically facilitates in providing solution to educational problems and also to help in improvement of Educational administration and thus in management by exploring new methods and strategies for teaching. Various researchers have made an effort in different spheres of education. Kapur (2018) provide with the information regarding types, significance, steps, meaning, and benefits of research in education.

Ali and Abdalla (2017) find that the Educational Management, Administration and Leadership lay great emphasis on education system, so does they review and provide information regarding the said terms and their uses. Ganyaupfu (2013) aims at knowing the effect of various teaching methods on academic performance of students. The result obtained with the help of 109 samples, researcher concluded that teacher- student interaction was the most effective one. Pramodini and Sophia (2012) focused on the importance and need of evaluation in diverse settings, questions, process, and knowledge of research in education. Fraser (2001) conducted a cross-national, where students were questioned about the climate of classroom and data was collected qualitatively. The results revealed that the climate of classroom vary from nation to nation. With the above literature it could be better understood that there is no field or phase of Education which is untouched by Research as Education provides a vast field for Research.

**Fields for research in Education:** The field of Education provides scope for Researches which may be classified as:

**Educational Psychology:** The Research in Educational Psychology is a never ending process as the process of education starts with Psychology itself, so with time research in the said field continues which not only verifies the effectiveness of old theories in present scenario but also formulates the new ones for making the process of education effective.

**Educational Philosophy:** Philosophy in itself is a varied range of subject which deals from negligible to infinite. So does the Educational Philosophy and the research in the said field provide basis to various functioning of education system. Educational Philosophy provides a platform to various policies and processes in education and for its effective use and implementation need of research arises.

**Educational Sociology:** Society and Education go hand in hand because change in society affects every aspect of Education, either in determining the teaching- learning practices, curriculum, educational objectives as it is considered that education should reflect the practices of society whereas the educational outcome should improve and develop the society and for the same the need of research increases essentially.

**Teaching- Learning Techniques:** The change is Universal in nature and as everything changes with time thus it is seen that positive changes are always fruitful. So, the techniques of teaching-learning should be change with the time. The best example is the present situation, the online mode of teaching technique is

providing help to keep the education system be in pace even in the phase of pandemic. The researches for techniques in teaching- learning are done in order to identify the improved and effective outcomes.

**Curriculum Framework:** Remodeling of Curriculum Framework is an important aspect of research in education as the updating or modification of curriculum is the necessary requirement in the field of education. Curriculum Framework although involves various aspects of educational- psychology, philosophy, sociology; educational objectives, measurement and evaluation methods, teaching- learning techniques, thus is an important task and with all such efforts NCF (National Curriculum Framework) 2005 was implemented and the timely changes will always be encouraged.

**Measurement and Evaluation Methods in Education:** The journey without destination may take us towards many places, but were those places thought by us to visit. Similarly attaining education but without results will be aimless and for results there is need of measurement and evaluation which not only provide us with marks or grades but also provide us room to improve, to know our strength and weaknesses and even our interest areas. School Based Assessment, Choice Based Credit System etc. are a few examples of Measurement and Evaluation methods which are also the outcome of research.

**Teacher Education:** One of the basic pillar of education is teacher and for holistic development of teacher, various changes have been made by NCTE (National Council for Teacher Education) in curriculum of teacher education which is based on recommendations of various committees. Although after a long time the curriculum of Teacher Education is updated and implemented with the name of NCFTE (National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education) 2014.

**Educational Guidance:** In present scenario, the importance of educational guidance is increasing and so does the scope of research. It is the matter of constant concern that students being under pressure of examination, result and for future lookout that they are getting depressed up to a level of even suicide. Educational Guidance along with providing solution to problem also helps with various torch lighted path for students.

**Classroom and Institutional Environment:** A proverb that healthy mind lives in a healthy body is significant here as healthy body with healthy mind grows in a healthy environment. So, for students to grow properly and effectively, the environment of classroom and institution should be learner centered, free for exploration or looking for new and comfortable for students to sort out queries, with well-equipped labs, library and even the opportunities for co-curricular activities. So to make environment more effective and according to the concerned pupil- teacher, there is continuous need of research and that too differently at different places.

**Values and Educational Objectives:** Without pre-decided objectives, the education process is incomplete. Educational Objectives provide direction for attaining the desired goal. With the time the way and need or form of objectives change which are again looked by the research. The concept of value added courses or objective is a fire issue of present trend. It is observed that there is need of value added content, content free of stereotyping etc., which is again the findings of various researches.

**Educational Administration and Management:** Educational Administration and Management covers almost each and every aspect of education and thus the sum total of research in education can be conducted

in this field as it look into every aspect of teaching-learning, curriculum, educational objectives, environment, teacher education, guidance, measurement and evaluation and overall institutional inputs, outputs and even processing, in summation the overall institutional details and its quality is a matter of research in education in particular with interdisciplinary approach.

**Role of NAAC and UGC for promotion of the research:** The Education provides a vast field for research to work and come up with appropriate and effective outcomes. The importance of Research can be better understood by the criteria of NAAC and UGC.

**National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC):** NAAC was established in 1994 with a vision of quality in Higher Education and mission of promoting and undertaking quality researches along with other mission. For fulfilling the mission, out of seven criteria of NAAC, the third criterion deals with Research, Innovations and Extension (NAAC Manual). It is believed that Research is one of the major works of Higher Education. There is need of Higher Education to get involve in Researches, provide adequate resources, administrative support and thus overall to encourage research as much as possible. The Importance of Research in Education could easily be understood by the NAAC's initiative or by its views. NAAC is not the only body that gives importance to research, another body that is UGC has also promoted and motivated the research and the researchers. UGC has taken many initiatives for the same.

**UGC:** UGC is with the firm view that research and teaching-learning process if integrated then the strength of Higher Education will be admirable and for the same UGC provide support for Researches and for projects of universities and colleges. Few assistance by UGC are mentioned herein-

- I. Major Research Projects for Teachers
  1. Humanities (HRP)
  2. Science Research (SR)
- II. Research Awards
- III. Research Scientist
- IV. Post-Doctoral Fellowships (PDF)
  1. For SC/ST candidates
  2. For Women
  3. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan PDF in Humanities & Social Sciences including Language.
- V. Research Fellowships (JRF/ Research Associate ships) for M.Phil. / Ph.D.
  1. Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)
  2. Research Associate ship
  3. For SC students
  4. For ST students
  5. For Minority students
  6. For OBC students
  7. For person with disabilities etc. (UGC Report 2018-19)

The above assistance is basically provided in order to promote the quality researches to develop the research culture in higher education. The importance of Research in Education is a fundamental requirement which is significant by the initiatives of NAAC and UGC as well.

**Conclusion:** Education has neither a beginning nor an end but the formal education do begins with the pre-primary classes and generally gets completed with doctoral work. Education is a vast field which umbrella various others sphere and encourage for its improvement by research.

Research covers each and every field of education, starting from the planning to the outcomes thus it could be well understood that research in education bears its significance at every aspect of input, process and even output.

The importance of research in education is also being considered by NAAC and UGC which can be better understood by their effort in the field.

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