

Ms. Samreen Jalal *
Ms. Faiza Shaheen**

EVALUATION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES OF POST GRADUATE STUDENTS TOWARDS CONDUCTING RESEARCH

Abstract

There is a popular conception that research enhances the knowledge and provision of research facilities improves the quality of research work. This study was aimed to explore the types of facilities that were provided for conducting of research activities. Nature of research was descriptive and survey method was used for data collection. Convenient method of sampling was used for selecting the sample and total sample size was consisted of 114 students. Mean, standard deviation, t-test and ANOVA analysis techniques were applied for data analysis and the study produced the results to prove as a great asset and a source of knowledge for future learners. In the light of results, study recommended that it will be beneficial for university administrators as well as for supervisors to provide research assisted facilities to post-graduate students.

Keywords: Research, Research facilities, Post-graduate students

* Lecturer (Education) University of Education, Bank Road Campus, Lahore
(samreen.jalal2010@yahoo.com)

** Lecturer (Education) University of Education, Bank Road Campus, Lahore
(fizjanjua@gmail.com)

Introduction

Universities are considered research centers because knowledge is produced in these centers. These contribute a lot in the promotion of research activities due to serving as natural home of research and providing training to research scholars for their research activities. The success of these activities depends on provision of resources and facilities (Shivalingaiah & Gowda, 2009).

Research is given importance in the universities of Pakistan. Higher Education Commission is contributing a lot in the up gradation of research activities by provision of research assisted facilities in Universities (Higher Education Commission, 2005). University students play a major role in the production of research activities and these can be increased by the provision of research assisted facilities (Ajzen & Fishbein, 2000). In Pakistan, Post-graduate students face a lot of problems in conducting research because of not provision of such types of facilities i.e. not provision of proper guidance, lack of time by supervisor, lack of availability to literature needed, library management and function (Mehmood, 2011). The studies conducted by Mafa & Mapolisa (2011), and Shivalingaiah & Gowda (2009) showed a major support to these research facilities i.e. supervisory support and library services.

Research supervisory support is considered as guidance, direction, assistance, coaching, tutoring, and mentoring to a research scholar by the concerned supervisor (Mafa & Mapolisa, 2011). Many researches showed that a large number of post-graduate students in Pakistan are not in a position to complete their research timely. The major reason is concerned with not provision of supervisory support in a proper way. Supervisory support is a social encounter between the supervisory and supervisee and that process is concerned to share and absorbing

the knowledge. Successful provision of Post-graduate students' research needs a balancing relationship between these interests (Abiddin, Ismail, & Ismail, 2011).

On the other hand, academic library also plays a most important role in dissemination of knowledge. Students' satisfaction in aspect of library usage depends on three aspects; one is related to quality of provided information, second is information process and third is related to services for provision of information. Students are not satisfied in all these aspects and these problems are become hindrance in the research activities (Iwhiwhu, 2012). So the study aims to identify the major types of research assisted facilities.

Literature Review

Owing to the value that research plays in registering universities as knowledge gates, the practical conditions to undertake in-depth academic research at university level occupies a fundamental place. The nature of research is innovative and requires combination of skills to be utilized altogether, a number of research facilities contribute not only in way of polishing the research skills but also for unique execution of research inquiries. Along with the consolidation of providing library facilities, the role of skillful supervision has its own place towards developing worthwhile research.

Knowledge related to skills necessary to do research is optimized when the available conditions are made conducive as well as accessible. The role of library facilities and supervisory support is not deniable. Both kinds of facilities including contemporary library material and supervisory skills work as pre-requisite to each other. In the findings of a study conducted on the research experiences of post graduate students, reported that the time allocated by research supervisor contribute positively to speed up the quality of work (Trigwell & Goddet, 2005).

The support from supervisor has remained a concern of research from varied perspectives. The role of supervisory support has been reported on the factors like availability, time allotted, providing direction, guidance, and feedback in planning and analysis skills. Evidence of research studies (Philips & Pugh, 2005) support the argument that quality of time provided by supervisor contributes in enhanced research skills of students as well as providing findings appropriate to the solution of problems.

A debate on the provision of quality of time and the amount of time provided by supervisor prevails on elaborating the role of supervisor in conduction of research. Carroll (2011) has reported the expectations of students undertaking the research. He pointed out that the availability of supervisor supports the students to keep work progress in aligned with the prior planning.

A Research Information Network report (2011) emphasized the role of research supervisor on the chances of learning research skills by students. It kept understood that the long the research process undertakes, the likely chances are increased for learning research skills. Such skills relate to general planning towards technical skills as data handling and analysis. The time allocated to students by supervisors has remained a prominent contributor in learning research skills.

The timelines to be met and working by following the planning is an outcome of continuous feedback provided by research supervisor. In Postgraduate Research students' Handbook, the data, time and work management skills of researchers are pointed out with their influence on timely execution of research work.

The role of supervisors is necessary to be known and practiced by supervisors themselves regardless of the discipline they supervise research work. Code of Practice for supervisors and research students (2014) extensively reports the guidelines that restrict the

role of students and supervisors. It is sensitive towards the timely completion and submission of research work. Such kinds of codes are further helpful in identifying the criterion on which the duties of supervisors can be evaluated and the right extent of assistance can be provided to students.

Trigwell & Goddet (2005) concluded with the varied experiences of post graduate students that nature of individual experiences vary and the weightage of the role of supervisor is determined by the nature of topic and field of study. The experience of supervisor and attitude of students were also found influential while reporting the research experiences of students.

In order to opportune with the library facilities at its optimum, a list of library facilities has been reported as necessary in the successful conduction of research. It was found understood in a study that the supportive materials differ with regard to academic task required. Rasul and Singh (2010) have identified the practical facilities available for researchers that assist them in their research work. They evaluated the opinions of students regarding the use of library facilities and concluded that by increasing the opening hours of libraries, the physical facilities can be optimally be used. The importance of the library facilities in promoting and polishing research skills have been studied by Webb (2007) that assessed the opinion of students. The availability of up dated materials in library contributes its role in enhancing the research skills of students.

Significance of the Study

Quality of research is based on research attitudes of researchers but on other hand, it also depends on institutional facilities that are provided to research students for conducting research (Saleem, Butt, & Farooqi, 2014). So the present study aims to evaluate the research facilities of post- graduate students towards conducting research.

This study may be helpful for supervisors and administrators because they may be able to understand the factors that effect on

students' research and contribute in provision of resources to carry out research.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the types of facilities available for students in conducting research.
2. To compare male and female students' opinion about available facilities.
3. To compare students' opinion of different campus of university regarding research related facilities.

Research Questions of the Study

1. Which types of facilities available for students in conducting research?
2. What is the difference between the male and female students' opinion about available facilities?
3. What is the difference between students' opinion of different campuses of university regarding research related facilities?

Delimitation of Study

This study was delimited to M.A Education program.

Methodology

Research was descriptive in nature and survey type. Convenient method of sampling was used to select three campuses (Bank Road, Lower Mall, & Township) of University of Education. 114 students of M.A Education program (Bank Road: 33, Lower Mall: 36, & Township campus: 45) were also selected by using the same sampling method.

Instrumentation

Questionnaire was developed to collect the responses on five point likert scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Reliability of different items of questionnaire was analyzed by using Cronbach Alpha and the reliability of questionnaire was .725.

Data Collection

Data were collected by personal visit of three campuses of university and 114 questionnaires received from the respondents.

Data Analysis

After collection of data, it was analyzed by using mean, standard deviation, t-test and ANOVA analysis techniques.

Findings

The results of the study showed:

Table 1: Library Facilities

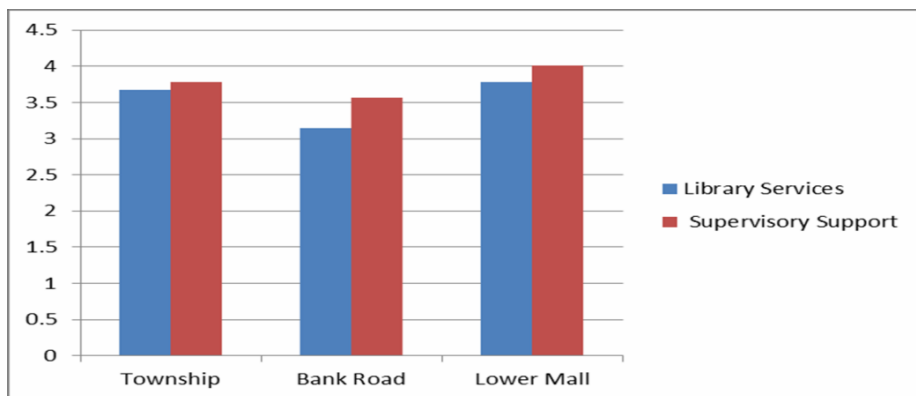
Sr. No.	Statements	Mean
1	Library plays a vital role in dissemination of knowledge	2.00
2	Librarians are cooperative.	2.61
3	Library provides time management facility.	1.08
4	Library has good collection of research journals: a) National. b) International.	1.08 1.07
5	Library has good collection of foreign research books.	1.17
6	Video conferencing facility is available for: a) Online discussion. b) Shared documents.	1.28 1.26
7	You are satisfied by your library management.	1.34
8	You can access library online databases resources.	1.04

Table 2: Supervisory Support

Sr. No.	Statements	Mean
1	Supervision is available when you need it.	3.66
2	Your supervisor is supportive with you.	3.90
3	Your supervisor monitors your progress when you required.	3.83
4	You are given good guidance in topic selection and refinement.	3.82
5	Supervisor assists you in planning of research process.	3.93
6	Supervisor provides additional information relevant to topic.	3.89
7	Supervisor provides continuous feedback on the research work.	3.82
8	Your supervisors check your research work with full attention.	3.86
9	Technical services to data analysis are provided.	3.44

Table 3: Comparison of Male and Female Students' Opinion towards Research Facilities

Factors	Male		Female		T	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
Library facilities		3.42	.437	.667	3.55	.657
Supervisory Support	3.67	.512	3.79	.587	.541	.590

Table 4: Comparison of Research Facilities among different campuses of University

Conclusion

Findings of the study showed that librarians are cooperative, provides time management facility for research students and play a vital role in dissemination of knowledge, and attitude of librarians is cooperative. Majority of respondents are satisfied by your library management.

But the other respondents stated that video conferencing facility is less available for the research students for online discussion and sharing documents and students cannot access library online databases resources properly. Library also has less collection of

national and international research journal and foreign research books.

It can be concluded that supervisors monitor the student progress and provide guidance at each level of research process. But technical research assistance is not provided adequately.

Discussion

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the research assisted facilities to research students. The major results of the study showed that supervisor support is affected a lot on research activities than library services.

Another study conducted by Shivalingaiah & Gowda (2009) about facilities and services in university libraries in Karnataka; a study from researchers' point of view showed that universities have less availability of guidance. The findings of this study are consistent with the present study in aspect of less provision of guidance, less no. of international research journals and not provision of online database resources appropriately.

A study conducted by Abiddin, Ismail, & Ismail (2011) on Effective supervisory approach in enhancing postgraduate research studies concluded that students have difficulties in their research due to less provision of proper guidance, feedback and technical data usage assistance. So these findings are consistent with the present study.

Recommendations

- Institution should provide the video conferencing facility to the teachers and students for online discussion and sharing of documents.
- Libraries should be enriched with latest national and international research journals so that students can get benefits from other researches.
- Supervisors should be equipped in using of technical data analysis tools so that they can assist the students in data analysis properly.

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