

# Educational Research in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Challenges and Opportunities

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## ABSTRACT

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Human resource development plays an important role in economic development. Education and skill training result in Human resource development in various way. Education is the key for developing and developed country for economic growth.

It is said that Higher education system in India is the third largest in the world followed by United States of America and China. Now a days, research has taken an important place in education fields. The teacher's job is not limited to just class room teaching now a days but to engaged themselves in education research for enhancing teaching skill. The paper elaborates the objectives of research, history of higher education in India, role of UGC, importance of research in education and for the teacher, challenges of its, and the opportunities which they can get.

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## 1. Introduction

Human resource development plays an important role in economic development. Education and skill training result in Human resource development in various way.

Education is the key for economic growth of country. (Todaro and Smith) It can reduce income inequality, contributes rural development and many other problems which are existed in developing country like India. According to population census of 2011, the population in India is 121 crore and it is expected to surpass the China by the 2030 and the largest democracy in the world as well.

It is said that Higher education system in India is the third largest in the world followed by United States of America and China. The University Grant Commission is the main governing body in India. The education is provided by both private and public sector by the control of government from the three levels, i.e. Centre Government, State Government, and Local Government. The role of UGC is to advises to government and helps in coordination of the Centre and state. Now a days, research has taken an important place in education fields. The teacher's job is not limited to just class room teaching now a days but to engaged themselves in education research for enhancing teaching skill.

The people where belong to the Rural area and their main occupation was the agriculture but after economic reforms 1991 the scenario is changed due to change in the objectives. Under the various plans, educational facilities have been expanded in higher education and technical education.in India.

## 2. Objectives:

- To highlights the Higher Education system in India.
- To analyze the importance and various Challenges in educational researchin India.
- To highlights the funding opportunities for research in India.

## 3. Research Methodology

Data collected for the completion of this paper is purely based on secondary source which collected from the websites of Government of India, University Grant Commission, National and International e-journal related with education, Books, research articles.

## 4. History of Higher education in India

It is said that the education system started in India as early as 1000 B.C. Unlike present day universities, these ancient system were primarily related to Vedic education. The modern Indian education system finds its roots in colonial legacy. Colonial efforts in higher education were carried out initially through the East India Company, followed by the British parliament and later under direct British rule. The first institution of higher learning set up by the British East India Company was the Calcutta Madrasa in 1781. This was followed by the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1784, Banaras Sanskrit College in 1791 and Fort William College in 1800. Thomas Babbington Macaulay's famously controversial Minute on Education (1835) reflected the growing support of a Western approach to knowledge over an Oriental one. Soon after, in 1857, the first three official universities were started in Bombay (Mumbai), Calcutta (Kolkata) and Madras (Chennai).

When India gained independence in 1947, the nation had a total of 2,41,369 students registered across 20 universities and 496 colleges. In 1948, the Indian Government established the University Education Commission to oversee the growth and improvement of higher education. In the 1960s and 1970s, the government increased its efforts to support higher education by not only setting up state-funded universities and colleges, but also providing financial assistance to private institutions, resulting in the creation of private aided/ grant-in-aid institutions.

Distance learning education is also a feature of the Indian higher education system. Indira Gandhi Open University is the one of the largest universities in the world having 3.5 million students across the world.

**Table: 1 Total number of Universities in India**

Universities	Numbers
State Universities	384
Deemed to be universities	124
Central Universities	47
Private Universities	296
<b>Total Universities</b>	<b>851</b>

Source: www.ugc.ac.in

Out of total 851 Universities, 384 universities are belonging to the state government which is termed as State Universities while 124 are deemed to be universities, 47 Universities belong to the Central Government which are termed as Central Universities, and 296 are Private universities. According to Government of Gujarat, In Gujarat there is total 63 Universities. Out of 65 Universities 18 are the State university, 4 Agriculture, 32 are Private universities while 3 Central university 6 institute of national importance.

**Table: 2 Total numbers of universities in Gujarat**

Universities	Numbers
State Universities	18
Agriculture Universities	4
Central and Deemed Universities	3
Private Universities	32
Institute of National Importance	6
<b>Total Universities</b>	<b>63</b>

Source: www.gujarat-education.gov.in/education/

### 5. What is Research?

Teacher, Researcher and Research are related to one another.

A teacher is a person who helps others to acquire knowledge, competences or values.

A researcher is a person who carries out academic or scientific research.

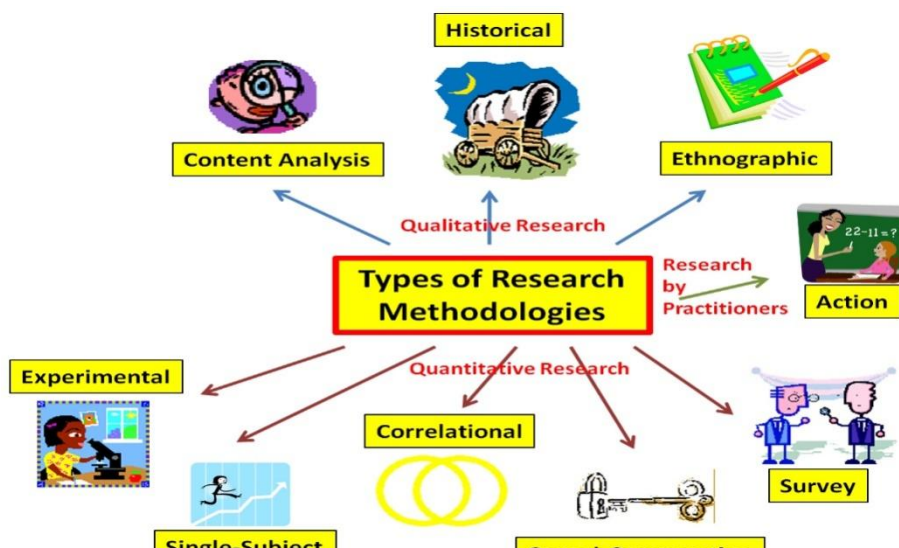
Research means diligent and systematic inquiry or investigation into a subject to discover or revise facts, theories and application.

### 6. Various types of research.

There are various types of research but two basic approaches are more popular such as quantitative and qualitative research.

Quantitative research refers to the systematic empirical investigation of any phenomena through Statistical data, mathematical or computation techniques. It includes models, thesis and hypothesis.

Qualitative research includes collecting , analyzing and interpreting data by observing what people do and say.



### 7. Importance of Research in education

British Educational Research Association (BERA) has published a report titled “ Research and the teaching profession.” Which reflects that teachers need to be encouraged and allowed for academic research into education to enhancement of the practice. According to the report,

- If a teacher wants to be effective in teaching, they need to be engaged in research.
- Teachers need the capacity, motivation, confidence and opportunities to engage in research.
- Research is sustained throughout their career.

The completion rate of Ph.D in india is only about 50% with respect to gender, of total number of Ph.D awarded

66.4%, (30,264) have been obtained by men and 33.6% (15,297) Ph.Ds have been obtained by women.

According to the Report of Organization for Economic corporation and Development (OECD) that India has produced 24,000 doctoral graduates and got fourth rank against USA that have produced 68,000 and top the list. Most of the produced are from the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

### 8. Challenges for Researcher

- Lack of scientific training in the methodology of research.
- Overlapping research studies.
- Unsatisfactory library management.

- Difficulties in data collecting and data quality.
- Time and money are the biggest problems that a researcher has to face during the research.
- Insufficient interaction between the university research and institutions research.

## 9. Opportunities: Fellowship Opportunities for Research

### Ministry of science and Technology

#### Extra Mural Research Funding (Individual Centric)

Individual centric competitive mode of funding will be provided under the EMR funding schemes. SERB supports potential scientists for undertaking research in frontier areas of S&T in Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences & Mathematical Sciences.

#### Scheme for funding High Risk -High Reward Research

The Scheme for funding High Risk - High Reward Research aims at supporting proposals that are conceptually new and risky, and if successful, expected to have a paradigm shifting influence on the S&T. This may be in terms of formulating new hypothesis, or scientific breakthroughs which aid in emergence of new technologies.

#### Start-Up Research Grant (Young Scientists)

Start-up grant for Young Scientists is restructured w.e.f. 1st September 2015 into two new schemes: Early Career Research Award (ECRA), National Post-Doctoral Fellowship (NPDF) research grants through the extramural funding schemes of various S&T agencies of the Government of India.

#### National Post-Doctoral Fellowship

The SERB-National Post-Doctoral Fellowship (N-PDF) is aimed to identify motivated young researchers and provide them support for doing research in frontier areas of science and engineering. The fellows will work under a mentor, and it is hoped that this training will provide them a platform to develop as an independent researcher

#### SERB Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship

CSIR Young Scientists Awards  
Scheme for Young Scientists & Technologist (SYST)  
IYBA Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award

## Sponsored Research (RESPOND)

### Indo-U.S. Fellowship for Women in STEMM

- **Funding Opportunities for Research in Social Science** - Research in Social science is largely funded by Government of India and its agencies like ICSSR, UGC. Such organization provides the fund for minor and major projects related to the social science,

different fellowships for different researcher like National fellowships, senior fellowships, Post-Doctoral fellowships, Doctoral fellowships etc.

- **India's Collaboration with other nations in terms of Research and Education**

ICSSR delivers an opportunity to Indian and foreign candidates for interaction and research in Social Science. The Council is one of the implementing agencies of the social science component of the Cultural Exchange Agreements (CEPs) and Educational Exchange Programs (EEPs) signed between the Government of India and the governments of other nations.

- ICSSR also had collaboration with Vietnam Academy of Social Science (Vietnam), National Science Foundations (Sri-lanka), Economic and Social Research Council (UK).

- Countries like France, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands etc. are also engaged in multi-lateral collaborations for promoting the strengthening of the social science within these countries.

- **Financial assistance for organizing International Conferences in India**

The ICSSR is its endeavor to encourage dialogue and discussion on important issues of social science relevance, promotes and provides financial assistance to organize national & international conferences/ seminars in India.

## 10. Suggestions

- Qualitative work should be done rather than quantitative work so that international standard can be maintained.
- Incentives should be given to the researcher so that innovative research become possible.
- To provide infrastructure facilities for research.
- To provide fund to the researcher for quality research.

## 11. Conclusion

Human resource development plays an important role in economic development. Education and skill training result in Human resource development in various way. Education is required for economic growth for the nation. Now a days, research has taken an important place in education fields. The role of teacher is not limited to just class room teaching now a days but to improve their teaching skill through education research is also important. There are many challenges doing research in educational field in all stream such as science, technology, social science etc. in India. To solve these problems government has introduced many schemes so that researcher can get the advantages for doing quality research.

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