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EDITORIAL

Research is an integral part of any education system to effect change in teaching, classroom, curriculum, institution and beyond. It can help underpin professional learning of knowledge, skills and understanding. It clarifies purposes, processes and priorities when introducing change. Thus, researchers have come to the consensus that, educational research must be conducted in a rigorous and systematic way. A great deal of educational researches is conducted by investigators every year. However, most of the researches in education are conducted haphazardly and the outcomes of these researches have a little or nothing to practice. The standards of educational research in most of the Indian universities have deteriorated. Thus, urgent steps have to be taken to develop educational research and relate it effectively to the formulation of educational policies and improvement of education.

Identification of research area and topic is the foremost important task in educational research. The research topic is the foundation on which everything else rest. It is a challenge to the researcher to choose a right topic. Most of the researchers select topics of their research without having proper knowledge of what they want to study and why. Even without estimating the resources available such as time, money and people. Thus it leads to confusion, chaos, mental and emotional disturbances amongst the researchers. Many of the researchers have actually given up the work mid-way.

A research topic may be chosen based on the interest of the researcher and the resources available. Everything related to the topic needs to be read. A thorough comprehensive reading on the topic helps paving the path of research. The researcher needs to look for a niche in which she/he can make a difference. That may not change the whole world but would add to the body of knowledge. Seeking opportunity to get inputs from other experts in the field to fine-tune the topic is another important aspect of topic selection.

A researcher needs to frame appropriate research question to help generate topic ideas. She/he also needs to be flexible and be aware of over used ideas when deciding a topic.

Dr. Pratima Pradhan