



Outlook towards research project among post graduate students in Mumbai colleges

Dr. Aarti Vyas Varma

Assistant Professor,

Smt. P. N. Doshi Women's College, Ghatkopar

E-mail: aarti.varma@spndoshi.com

Abstract: Research is the foundation for all inventions, the most important component of academic exercise in the field of higher education. The Indian government has worked hard to invest in education, building facilities for both teaching and research, with a special emphasis on raising the standard of scientific research globally. The postgraduate research experience is a multifaceted construct that encompasses students perceived and episodic experiences during their candidature as well as the degree to which these experiences influence or contribute to their ongoing developmental growth beyond programme completion. The current study examined the internal consistency of research instrument by Cronbach's alpha measure. ranking method, weighted average method etc. have been used to analyse the data. Hypothesis was tested using chi-square test. It was found that Post graduate students outlook towards research project is reasonably favorable. Students generally acknowledge the usefulness of research courses and do not feel apprehensive, providing a research-friendly, enjoyable, and supportive environment might improve students outlook towards research projects.

Keywords: Outlook, Attitude, Research projects, Post graduate students, perspective.

1. INTRODUCTION:

In this rapidly changing environment, research has morphed into a vital intellectual tool that allows people to adapt their lifestyles to meet societal demands. New horizons are opened by research in an array of disciplines, like commerce, agriculture, exploring space, healthcare, and education. A research project serves as the foundation for many postgraduate courses and is the primary assignment for students completing a dissertation or thesis. Students' knowledge and expertise in their profession can be enhanced, and they can show that they can work independently and critically. Students can improve their critical thinking abilities and provide insightful contributions to the academic community by working on this project. Research projects for master's students foster a curiosity about new information and experiences, advance the growth of their intellectual capacity, offer them the skills to confidently and creatively tackle intellectual difficulties, and provide them with opportunity to opt for research or enroll for Ph.D. Outlook is a mental or neural set of readiness exerting directive dynamic influence upon the individual's response to all objects and situations. Outlook denotes the persons total inclinations, feelings, perception, prejudice, pre-conceived notions, ideas, fears, threats about any specific subject. In the present study the term 'outlook' is interpreted as perception, attitude, inquisitiveness, obstacles and training courses towards research projects among post graduate students in Mumbai colleges.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Review of literature is based on the title of study to analyse the research gap.

Butt & Shams (2013) "A study on Master in education students' attitudes towards research: A comparison between two public sector universities in Punjab, discovered that students enrolled in self-supported evening programmes have significantly better attitudes towards research than those enrolled in morning programmes. They also revealed that student teachers have a negative attitude towards research and that there is a significant difference in the attitudes of students with respect to the type of programme and areas of specialisation.

Meethuswamy, Vanitha, Suganthan and Ramesh (2013) the study revealed that success and advancement in knowledge-based societies are largely dependent on a good attitude towards research.

Kumar (2016) conducted a study on "Research aptitude of different academic streams at post graduate level". Assessing the postgraduate research skills of Haryana students was the goal of the study. Research was considered negatively by



PG students, according to the results of study that involved 150 students from different academic streams at PG level. Manali (2014) this study discovered that teachers had a favourable attitude towards writing and reading in science. All they need is time and motivation. Academic departments have a significant impact on the output of research and the research motivation of students. It evaluates the instructor's attitudes and experiences with regards to reading and writing of articles, the challenges they faced and to explore their perspectives towards research. The study group consisted of 150 dental postgraduate professors from different dental colleges in South India. The majority of the study group participated in the publication, and many more conducted research in order to advance their careers.

Oguan et al. (2014) in his study highlighted that student's viewed research favourably, with male students exhibiting a more positive attitude than female counterparts. Furthermore, they claimed that students acknowledged that research was hard and shown anxiety about it.

Bandele and Adebule (2013) in their study depicted that conducting research caused students to feel terrified, bored, uncomfortable, and anxious; if given the chance, they would not have enrolled in the course. Additionally, they discovered that students' attitudes towards research work were consistent across gender and faculty groups. They also discovered that nearly all of the graduating students had a bad attitude towards research, which was unwelcome if a country was to make scientific and technological advancements.

3. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Research is an essential endeavour for the advancement of technological and scientific knowledge. For postgraduate students, the research project is the quintessential part of their course and the basis of their dissertation/thesis. The project is not only integral in passing the course but also serves as the final test of student's capability to work independently and think critically. The above review highlights that the research enrolment in India is very less and it is due to research attitude pressure and the lack of interest in research related activities. Therefore, it is imperative to comprehend the outlook i.e. perception, attitude, inquisitiveness, obstacles and training courses required for research projects among post graduate students in Mumbai colleges. The finding of the study will be beneficial to the field of educational research. So, the present study is really necessary and significant.

3.1. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To analyse the general opinion of respondent's gender wise, the interest and need to promote research.
- To comprehend the outlook i.e., perception, attitude, inquisitiveness towards research projects among post graduate students in Mumbai colleges.
- To explore the training courses required to enhance research.
- To identify the obstacles faced by PG students related to research project work.
- To determine the association between gender and interest towards research projects
- To offer suggestions to stakeholders.

3.2. RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS:

H0: There is no significant association between gender and interest towards research projects.

H1: There is significant association between gender and interest towards research projects.

3.3. OVERVIEW OF MUMBAI REGION:

Mumbai holds the identity of being an education hotspot of South-East Asia. It offers a multitude of opportunities to educate students globally for a career of success and social contribution. Mumbai is also referred to as the Research Hub of India owing to its several research institutions in the fields of humanities and sciences. The city is home to several prime research institutions like the TIFR, BARC, VJTI, TISS etc. university of Mumbai and SNDT women's university being oldest and premier universities in India. Education remains the single largest challenge for maintaining the economic and financial prosperity of the city. Thus, it is important to establish links across the institutions so as to augment research capacity for provision of a consistent path of education.

3.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The paper titled outlook towards research projects among post graduate students in Mumbai colleges aims to acquaint general opinion of Post graduate students on research project. The study aims to comprehend various aspects related to research project outlook, namely: perception, attitude, inquisitiveness, obstacles and training courses. The study emphasis to find out the relation between gender and interest towards research projects.



3.5. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

Time was the limitation.
 The study is confined to post graduate students studying in colleges of Mumbai City.
 The study is further delimited to M.com students.
 There is a possibility of sample bias.
 The sampling size used for study is small, the larger size could have generated more accurate results.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Data collection:

Primary data – A well-structured questionnaire was designed (pre-tested and validated) in a way to satisfy the requirement of study. Personal interviews and discussions have also been adhered too.

Research Approach: Survey method

Research instrument: Questionnaire (5-point Likert scale)

Type of Questionnaire: Structured

Type of Questions: Close-ended questions

Secondary data – The secondary data was collected from reports, books, journals, bulletins, and other sources like online articles and newspapers, interviews on different national news channels, various published and unpublished literature and websites.

Statistical tools used – The data was analysed using MS-Excel, sorting, merging, and aggregating. Statistical tools such as tables, bar graphs, pie charts, averages, percentages, ranking method, weighted average method etc. have been used to analyse the collected data. Cronbach’s alpha measure was used to assess the reliability and internal consistency of research instrument. Hypothesis was tested using chi-square test.

Sampling procedure: Random sampling

The Survey area: Mumbai city.

Unit of observation: Post graduate students in Mumbai colleges

Sample size: 140 respondents.

The survey outreach- Through WhatsApp and Personal contacts.

Table no. 1 Cronbach’s alpha Reliability test (Based on Standardized Items)

Sr.no	Particulars	Sum of variance	Variance	Cronbach’s alpha	No. of Items (k)
1	Perception towards research project	3.702	8.451	0.7023	5
2	Attitude towards research project	4.722	11.467	0.7059	6
3	Inquisitiveness towards research project	3.228	6.816	0.7018	4
4	Obstacles faced while completing research project	5.776	14.870	0.7135	7
5	Training courses required to enhance research	6.243	16.409	0.7228	7

Source: Self calculated

Interpretation:

The instrument consists of 29 items on a 5-point Likert scale. It measures five aspects related to research project outlook, namely: perception, attitude, inquisitiveness, obstacles and training courses. The reliability coefficient of the research instrument as represented in table no.1 for all five aspects is more than 0.70 and thus test and scales constructed or adopted for the study is acceptable.

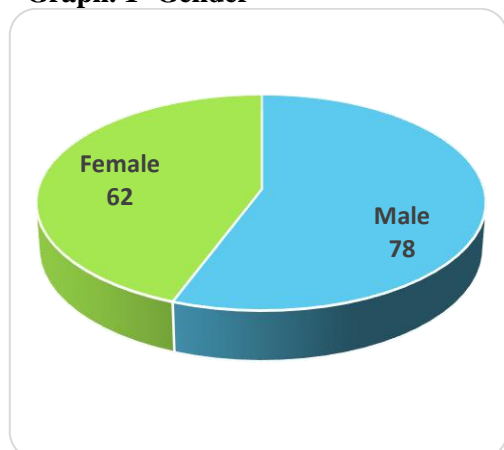
5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE:

Here the demographic profile aids to gauge the general characteristics of population i.e., gender, research need and research interest is taken into consideration.

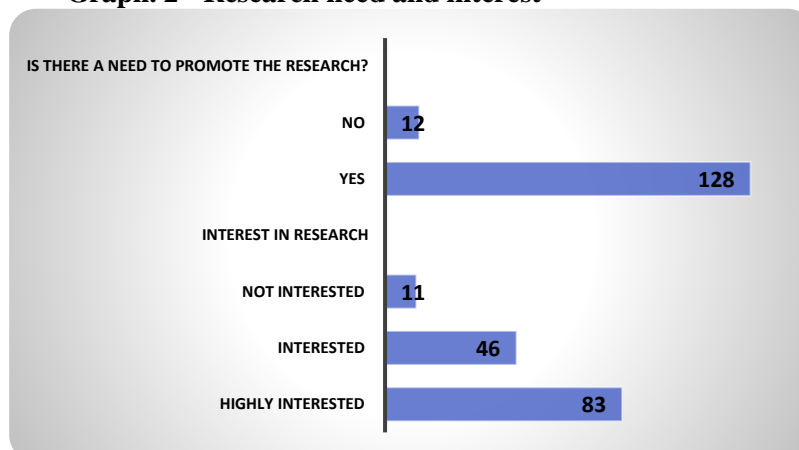


Graph. 1- Gender



Source: Primary data

Graph. 2 - Research need and interest



Interpretation:

In the above graph. 1, it was observed that, majority i.e., 78 respondents were males, while the remaining 62 respondents were female.

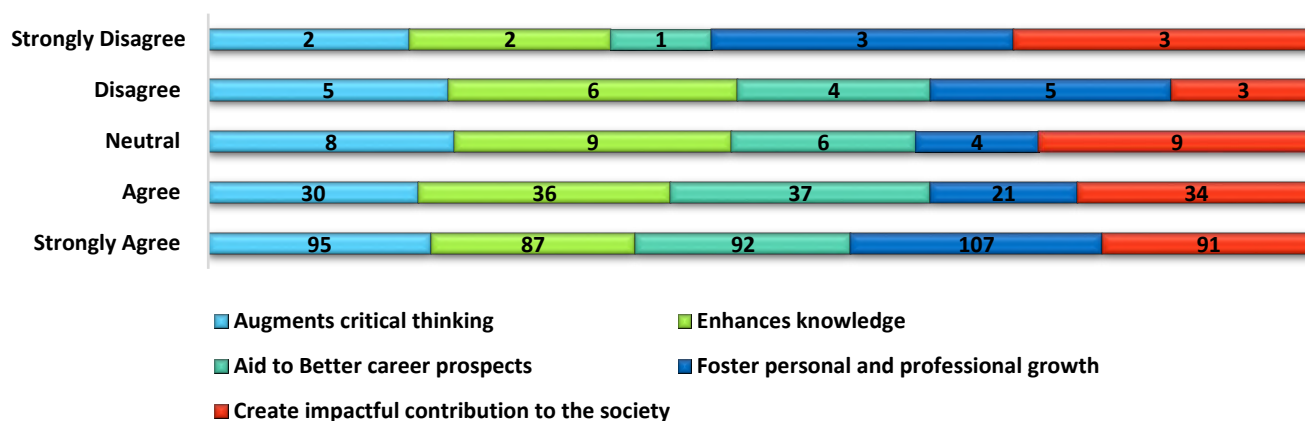
With respect to interest in research the graph. 2 depicts that 83 respondents were highly interested 46 respondents were interested and 11 respondents were not interested.

In relation to the need to promote research 128 respondents were of the opinion yes whereas 12 respondents responded no.

5.1. PERCEPTION TOWARDS RESEARCH PROJECT:

It encompasses general belief, self -efficacy and their expectation with respect to research project.

Graph. 3 Perceptions towards research project



Source: Primary data

Table no.2 Ranking analysis of Perceptions towards research project

PARAMETER	5(1)	4(2)	3(3)	2(4)	1(5)	TOTAL	MEAN SCORE	RANK
Augments critical thinking	95	60	24	20	10	209	1.49	3
Enhances knowledge	87	72	27	24	10	220	1.57	1
Aid to Better career prospects	92	74	18	16	5	205	1.46	4
Foster personal and professional growth	107	42	12	20	15	196	1.40	5
Create impactful contribution to the society	91	68	27	12	15	213	1.52	2

Source: Computed from primary data



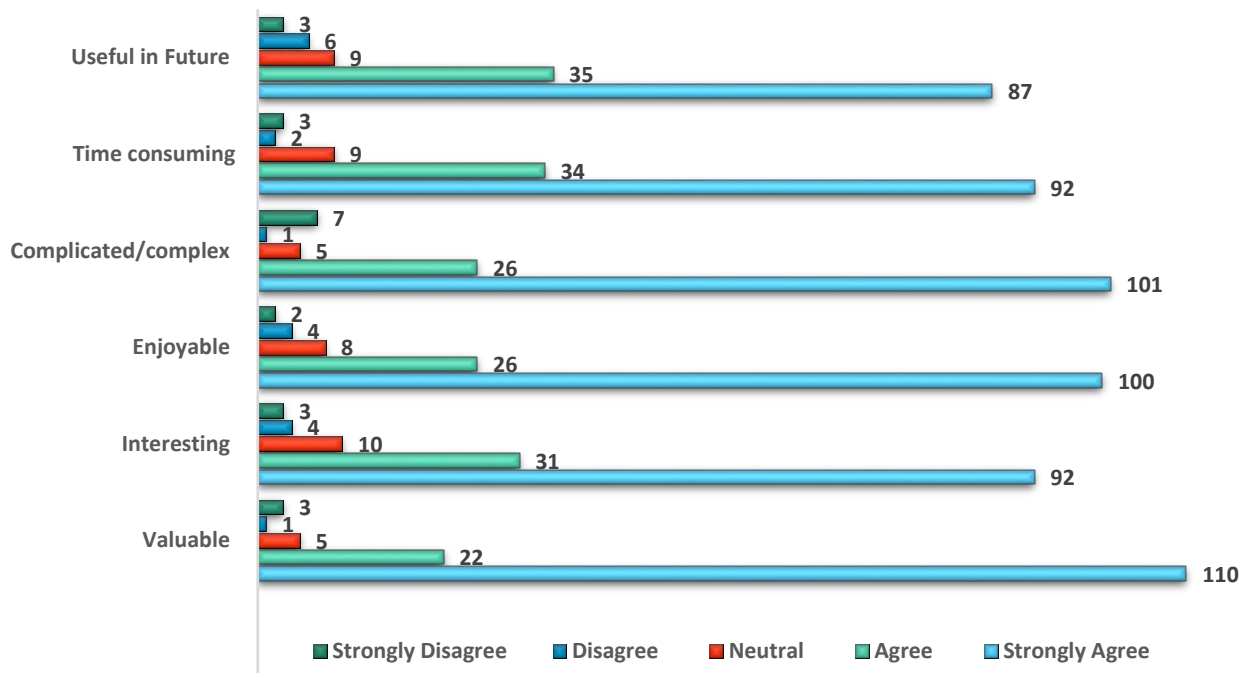
Interpretation:

The above table no. 2 displays rank for the parameter related to the post graduate student’s perception toward research project. The parameter related to perception reveals that research enhances knowledge ranks I, create impactful contribution to the society ranks II, augments critical thinking ranks III, aid to better career prospects rank IV, and foster personal and professional growth ranks V.

5.2. ATTITUDE TOWARDS RESEARCH PROJECT:

It revealed the general attitude towards research project which can be can be both challenging and rewarding.

Graph. 4 - Attitude towards research project



Source: Primary data

Table no.3 Weighted average analysis of attitude towards research project

PARAMETER	5(1)	4(2)	3(3)	2(4)	1(5)	TOTAL	MEAN SCORE
Valuable	110	44	15	4	15	188	1.34
Interesting	92	62	30	16	15	215	1.54
Enjoyable	100	52	24	16	10	202	1.44
Complicated/complex	101	52	15	4	35	207	1.48
Time consuming	92	68	27	8	15	210	1.50
Useful in Future	87	70	27	24	15	223	1.59

Source: Computed from primary data

Interpretation:

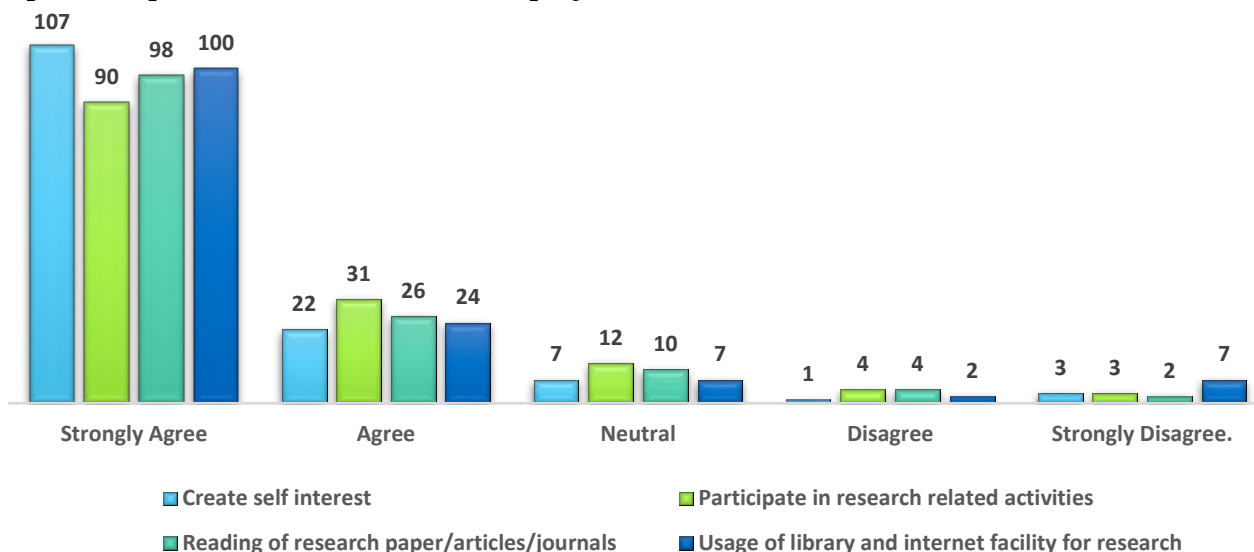
The above table no. 3 represents weighted average analysis with mean score for the parameter related to the post graduate student’s attitude towards research project. The parameter related to attitude depicts that mean score for research is useful in future is 1.59, followed by mean score of 1.54 for research is interesting, the mean score for research as time consuming ranks is 1.50, whereas it is complicated/complex has mean score of 1.48, research is enjoyable has mean score of 1.44 and research is valuable has mean score of 1.34.

5.3. INQUISITIVENESS TOWARDS RESEARCH PROJECT:

It relates to various factors that influence respondent’s interest towards research project.



Graph. 5 - Inquisitiveness towards research project



Source: Primary data

Table no.4 Ranking analysis of Inquisitiveness towards research project

PARAMETER	5(1)	4(2)	3(3)	2(4)	1(5)	TOTAL	MEAN SCORE	RANK
Create self interest	107	44	21	4	15	191	1.36	4
Participate in research related activities	90	62	36	16	15	219	1.56	1
Reading of research paper/articles/journals	98	52	30	16	10	206	1.47	3
Usage of library and internet facility for research	100	48	21	8	35	212	1.51	2

Source: Computed from primary data

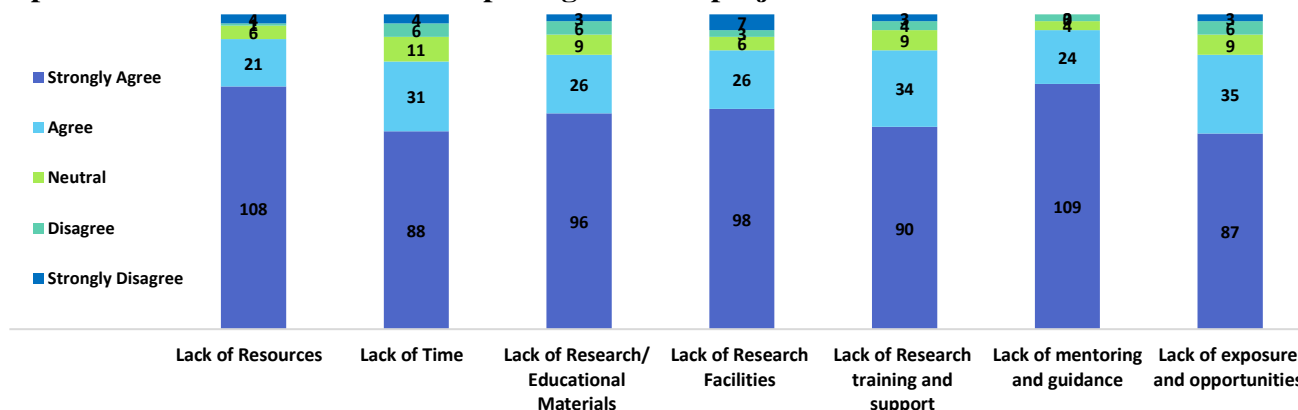
Interpretation:

The above table no. 4 displays rank for the parameter related to the post graduate student’s inquisitiveness towards research project. The parameter related to inquisitiveness reveals that students keen to participate in research related activities ranks I, student’s usage of library and internet facility for research ranks II, whereas reading of research paper/articles/journals ranks III and create self-interest rank IV.

5.4. OBSTACLES FACED WHILE COMPLETING RESEARCH PROJECT:

It represents the problems and difficulties faced by the respondents while completing research projects.

Graph. 6 - Obstacles faced while completing research project



Source: Primary data



Table. 5 Weighted average analysis of obstacles faced while completing research project

PARAMETER	5(1)	4(2)	3(3)	2(4)	1(5)	TOTAL	MEAN SCORE
Lack of Resources	108	42	18	4	20	192	1.37
Lack of Time	88	62	33	24	20	227	1.62
Lack of Research/ Educational Materials	96	52	27	24	15	214	1.52
Lack of Research Facilities	98	52	18	12	35	215	1.53
Lack of Research training and support	90	68	27	16	15	216	1.54
Lack of mentoring and guidance	109	48	12	12	0	181	1.29
Lack of exposure and opportunities	87	70	27	24	15	223	1.59

Source: Computed from primary data

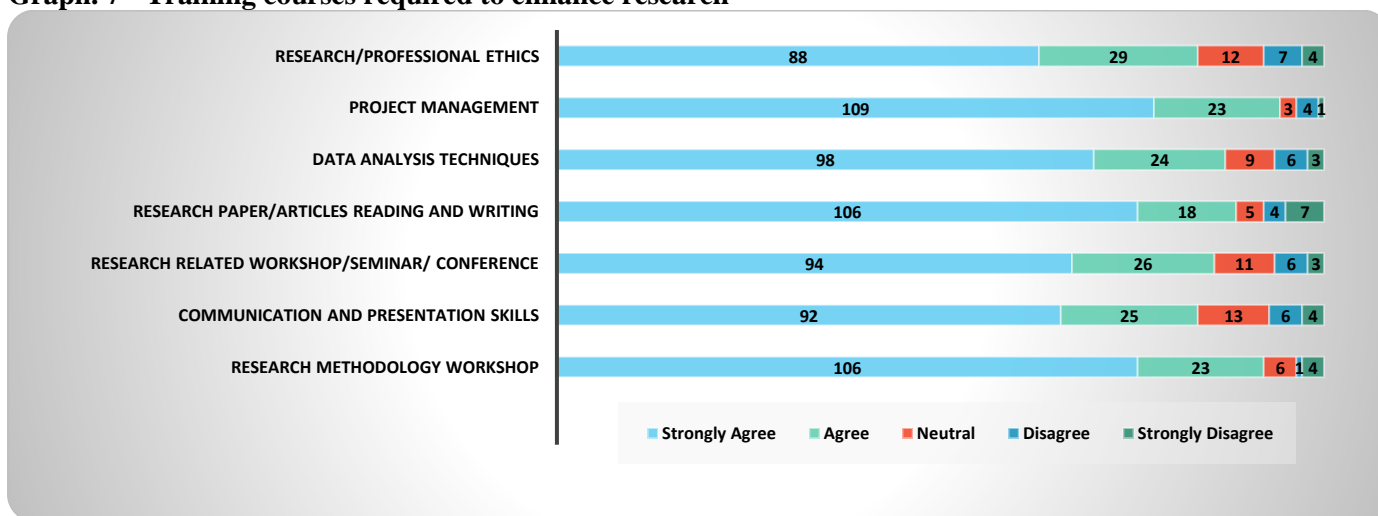
Interpretation:

The above table no. 5 represents weighted average analysis with mean score for the parameter related to the obstacles faced by post graduate student’s while completing research project. The parameter related to obstacles faced depicts that mean score for lack of time is 1.62, followed by mean score of 1.59 for lack of exposure and opportunities, the mean score for lack of research training and support is 1.54, whereas lack of research facilities has mean score of 1.53, lack of research/ educational materials has mean score of 1.52, lack of resources has mean score of 1.37 and lack of mentoring and guidance has mean score of 1.34.

5.5. TRAINING COURSES REQUIRED TO ENHANCE RESEARCH:

It depicts that training courses help researcher to develop the skills and knowledge to conduct and evaluate research.

Graph. 7 - Training courses required to enhance research



Source: Primary data

Graph. 6 – Ranking analysis for training courses required to enhance research

PARAMETER	5(1)	4(2)	3(3)	2(4)	1(5)	TOTAL	MEAN SCORE	RANK
Research methodology workshop	106	46	18	4	20	194	1.39	6
Communication and presentation skills	92	50	39	24	20	225	1.61	2
Research related workshop /seminar/ conference	94	52	33	24	15	218	1.56	3
Research paper/articles reading and writing	106	36	15	16	35	208	1.47	4
Data analysis techniques	98	48	18	24	15	203	1.45	5
Project management	109	46	9	16	5	185	1.32	7
Research / professional ethics	88	58	36	28	20	230	1.64	1

Source: Computed from primary data



Interpretation:

The above table no.6 displays rank for the parameter related to training courses required by the post graduate students to enhance research. The parameter related to training courses reveals that research / professional ethics ranks I, communication and presentation skills ranks II, research related workshop /seminar/ conference ranks III, research paper/articles reading and writing rank IV, Data analysis techniques ranks V, research methodology workshop ranks VI and Project management ranks VII.

6. HYPOTHESIS TESTING:

Hypothesis of study was validated with the help of chi- square

1. GENDER AND INTEREST TOWARDS RESEARCH PROJECTS:

In order to examine the relationship between gender and interest towards research projects the following hypothesis was proposed:

Hypothesis:

H0: There is no significant association between gender and interest towards research projects

H1: There is significant association between gender and interest towards research projects

The below table represents data of Gender and interest towards research projects.

Table no.7- Gender and interest towards research projects.

Interest towards research projects	Highly interested	Interested	Not interested	Total
Gender				
Male	33	36	9	78
Female	50	10	2	62
Total	83	46	11	140

Source- Computed from primary data. (Level of significance 0.05)

Interpretation:

Independence (Association), using χ^2 distribution (DF=2)-right-tailed

1. Since p-value < α , H0 is rejected. The statistical model does not fit the observations. A significant association was found between gender and interest towards research projects.
2. The p-value equals 0.00002647, ($p(x \leq \chi^2) = 1$). It means that the chance of type I error (rejecting a correct H0) is small: 0.00002647 (0.0026%). The smaller the p-value the more it supports H1.
3. The test statistic χ^2 equals 21.0789, which is not in the 95% region of acceptance: $[-\infty: 5.9915]$.
4. The observed effect size phi is medium, 0.39. Cramer's V effect size is 0.39. This indicates that the magnitude of the difference between the observed data and the expected data is medium.

Table no. 8 - Summary of outcomes of hypothesis test

Hypothesis	Null Hypothesis Accepted/Rejected	Outcome
H0	Rejected	There is a significant association between gender and interest towards research projects.

7. FINDINGS:

- A well-structured survey has been done to achieve the objectives of research.
- Based on the data collected and validated, it is opined that, majority of the respondents were males, with respect to student’s interest in research it is found that maximum 83 respondents were highly interested in research and majority i.e.,128 respondents were of the opinion that there is need to the need to promote research.
- With respect to parameter related to the post graduate student’s perception toward research project it was depicted research enhances knowledge ranks I followed by create impactful contribution to the society, augments critical thinking, aid to better career prospects, and foster personal and professional growth respectively.
- While taking into consideration the parameter related to the post graduate student’s attitude towards research project it is highlighted that the highest mean score i.e., 1.59 is for research is useful in future, followed by mean score for research is interesting, time consuming, complicated/complex, enjoyable and valuable respectively.



- The parameter related to the post graduate student's inquisitiveness towards research project reveals that students are keen to participate in research related activities scores ranks I, whereas least rank i.e., IV is for creating self-interest in research.
- In relation to the parameter associated to the obstacles faced by post graduate student's while completing research project depicts that mean score for lack of time is highest i.e., 1.62, whereas least mean score (1.34) is represented by lack of mentoring and guidance.
- With respect to the parameter related to training courses required by the post graduate students to enhance research highlights rank I for training on Research / professional ethics and lowest rank to Project management training.
- On the basis of Hypothesis test it is proved that there is a significant association was found between gender and interest towards research projects

8. SCOPE FOR FURTHER STUDY:

The scope of study can be extended outside Mumbai city.

A bigger sample including diverse aspect of student's interest towards research can be studied.

9. SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION:

The study reveals that most students express a positive attitude, perception and inquisitiveness towards research project, but training courses is required to enhance and ensure ongoing positive experiences. Institutions should focus on improving the undergraduate students research experience by helping the students to overcome the most prominent obstacles faced while completing the research projects. Enthusiastic mentor, guide and teachers can be the influential factors who can motivate students to develop keen interest in research. The lacuna between the research project in study program and the outlook of the students can be taped up by incorporating varied training programs in the form of research workshops/ seminar/ conferences, invited talks on data analysis techniques, project management, research ethics, research methodology etc. The institutions offering the post graduate program can also give the training in writing articles, to identify appropriate journals for publications and help in writing skills as well as other communication skills to the students to complete their research project successfully. Proper training can instill favorable outlook among students and help them to complete their research project with quality research in stipulated time.

REFERENCES:

1. Amninder Kaur (2016) Attitude of students towards research, Scholarly Research Journal, Vol-3/23.
2. Behnam Behforouz, Ali Al Ghaithi, Saif Al Weshahi, (2023) Lecturers' Perceptions of Action Research and Current Challenges, International Journal of Learning, Teaching and Educational Research Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 141-159, March 2023
3. Butt, I. H. & Shams, J. A. (2013). Master in Education Student Attitudes towards Research: A comparison between two public sector universities in Punjab, *South Asian Studies*, 28 (1), 97-105.
4. Dhruvajyoti Deka, Alok Mishra, Hrishikesh Patel (2015), Attitudes of post graduate students towards research, International Human Research Journal, Online Interdisciplinary- Quarterly, ISSN 2347-7067, Volume-III, Issue-I.
5. Ekta Agrawal (2019) A Study on Attitude of B.Ed. Faculty Members towards Research, JETIR, Volume 6, Issue 6, (ISSN-2349-5162).
6. Kakupa, P. (2019). Students' Attitudes towards Research: A Study of Graduate Education Students at a Chinese Normal University. *Educational Process: International Journal*, 8(2), 97-110.
7. K. Suresh Kumar (2015) Attitude towards Research among M. Ed Students, International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development, Volume: 2, Issue: 8, 85-87.
8. Kothari, C. R. (2014) *Research methodology: Methods and techniques*. New Delhi: New Age International (P) Ltd., Publishers.
9. Kumar, N. (2008). Students attitude toward research report writing in higher education: a literature review. *Management Educator: Courses, Cases & Teaching Journal*, 5 (65), 104-127.
10. Maheswari, V., & Haridas, R. (2013). Study on determinants of student's attitude towards higher education. *IOSR Journal of Business and Management*, 13(4), 60-62.
11. Manali R Srinivasan, et al. (2014). Research experiences, attitudes, and barriers to publishing among the dental postgraduate teachers: A cross sectional study. *Indian Journal of Dental Research*, 25(4), 454-458.



12. Muthusamy, P. Vanitha, R. Suganthan, C. & Ramesh, P.S. (2017). A study on Attitude towards Research among the Doctoral Students. *International Journal of Civil Engineering and Technology*, 8(11), 2017, pp. 811–823.
13. Shaukat, S., Siddiquah, A., Abiodullah, M., & Akbar, R. A. (2014). Postgraduate students' attitudes towards research. *Bulletin of Education and Research*, 36(1), 111-122.
14. Shafqat Khan, Syed Manzoor Hussain Shah, and Tariq Mahmood Khan (2018) An Investigation of Attitudes towards the Research Activities of University Teachers, *Bulletin of Education and Research April 2018, Vol. 40, No. 1 pp. 215-230*.
15. Sridevi K.V. (2011). Attitude of M. Ed students towards Research. *Indian Journal of Research*, 4(4) retrieve from www.aiaer.net/ejournal/2010801/14.html
16. S. J. T. Jansen, H. J. F. M. Boumeester, R. M. Rooij, (2022) Architecture students and research courses: are they aligned? Students' attitude towards research courses, *Learning Environments Research*, 25:549–563
17. Rind, Zain ul Abdin & Ali, Murtaza & Jamali, Maqbool. (2022). Attitude of students towards research: A review, *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development Online* ISSN: 2349-4182, Volume 7; Issue 5; 2020; Page No. 101-102