

ATTITUDE OF COLLEGE TEACHERS TOWARDS RESEARCH IN NAGAON DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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Abstract: *Research plays a significant role in our daily life, and all the inventions are possible with the help of research. Research work helps the human being to find out the reasons of various problems and also suggest to solving the problems. A positive attitude helps to increase achievement in securing relevant fields, facts, concepts, and generalization in research works. The researcher is keenly interested to study the college teachers' attitude of the degree colleges of Nagaon district of Assam. To find out the solutions of the problem, the present research problem has been entitled as, "Attitude of College Teachers towards Research in Nagaon district of Assam". 1) To study the levels of Attitude of College Teachers towards Research in Nagaon district of Assam. The study is delimited to provincialized degree colleges in Nagaon district of Assam. The present study is conducted using descriptive survey method. The statistical techniques employed for the study are Mean, Median, Mode, Skewness, Kurtosis, Standard Deviation and Z test. The whole analysis is made through using Statistical Package for Social Sciences software. The findings of the study show the attitude of college teachers towards research in Nagaon district of Assam. From this study it is observed that the*

college teachers have a favourable attitude towards research and it helps to give a positive impact on society.

Keywords: College, Teacher, Attitude, Research.

I. INTRODUCTION

Research plays a significant role in our daily life, and all the inventions are possible with the help of research. Research work helps the human being to find out the reasons of various problems and also suggest to solving the problems. Many horrible diseases like flue, polio, cancer etc., can also be cured with the help of research. Not only in medicine, but also in the field of science and technology research helped a lot in the 21st century (Gross, 2001). The main purpose of the research is to contribute towards the understanding of the phenomenon and then to communicate that understanding to others. It has been giving reinforcement towards learning experiences for students, producing graduates with high personal and professional achievement (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975). Research is the most important academic exercise in the area of higher education. Higher education emphasized on the potential growth of research activities for the achievement of academic exercise and systematic growth of human societies. It is one of the most important and urgent need of higher education.

II. ATTITUDE IS AN ASSET OF HUMAN LIFE

The word Attitude is derived from the Latin word 'aptus' which in the language of Allport has the significance of 'fitness' and 'adaptability'; 'aptitude' connotes a subjective or mental state of 'preparation for action'. (Sarmah, 2016). An attitude is a favorable and unfavorable evaluation of something. Attitudes may be positive or negative views of a person towards place, things or events. The attitude is the dynamic element in human behaviors, which motivate the people to exercise with greater interest. Most attitudes are the result either direct experience or observational learning from the environment. Attitude has been described as the emotional tends, predisposition towards objects and ideas. A positive attitude helps to increase achievement in securing relevant fields, facts, concepts, and generalization in research works. The people have

research need to develop an adequate self-concept and self-proficiency. Positive attitude towards research which can help to each individual to develop new knowledge and make a change in society. Negative attitudes hamper learner's achievement and progress, whereas positive attitudes makes people interested towards research and become enthused in achieving the objectives. Development of favourable attitude relevant to the promotion of educational research constitutes a necessary product of education. Research is an important activity which leads to the development of new ideas and theories which can contribute to the society to have a plentiful and comfortable life.

III. TEACHERS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS RESEARCH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Teaching, Research and extension are the three vital aims of higher education (Williams, 1979). Through these three aims teachers can explore more and more knowledge for the development of higher education by fulfilling their needs, values, abilities and decisions. In present era these three aims are highly applicable for the quality development of higher education and also professional development of the teachers. Teachers are among the people who have the biggest responsibility in the education system to raise individuals who has quest for knowledge. In other words, it is regarded as an important necessity that teachers should have enough information and skills and have a positive attitude towards scientific research and researchers with the basic information and skills related to scientific research (Korkmaz et al., 2011). A positive attitude towards a work will make the work more satisfactory and professionally reinforcing. Attitude towards research determine the attitude of researchers about the concept of research, process of research, its usefulness and relevance in our life. In modern world, Attitudes of people are considered more important than their experiences and academic preparation. A positive attitude towards research is a key to success and progress in the knowledge based societies.

IV. NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Research is an important activity for the development of scientific and technical knowledge. It is the gateway to the development of theoretical knowledge, practical skills and in

any discipline. Its contribution is very significant and the progress of any country depends upon the contributions of creative people. Such contributions come from prominent thinkers, scientists, artists and persons who think of innovative ways and procedures of doing things or solving problems. The college teachers' attitude towards research is one of the thrust and emerging areas of present day education. So, it is very much urgent to know the attitude of college teachers towards research. Furthermore, from the above discussion it is found that hardly any research has been conducted to know the college teachers attitude towards research in the north-east India. Therefore, the researcher is keenly interested to study the college teachers' attitude of the degree colleges of Nagaon district of Assam. Looking into the above gaps, the researcher stated the present problem of the study in the following way.

V. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

To find out the solutions of the problem, the present research problem has been entitled as, "Attitude of College Teachers towards Research in Nagaon district of Assam".

VI. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1.4.1 To study the levels of Attitude of College Teachers towards Research in Nagaon district of Assam.

VII. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

College Teachers: Teachers are the moulder or conductor of human being and builder of society/nation. The researcher in the present study operationally defines the term 'College Teachers' who has been working in the provincialized colleges of Nagaon district of Assam.

Attitude: An attitude is a mental or neural set of readiness exerting directive dynamic influence upon the individual's response to all objects and situations. 'Attitude' denotes the sum total of man's inclinations and feelings, prejudice or bias, pre-conceived notions, ideas, fears, threats about any specific topic. In the present study the researcher operationally defines the term 'Attitude' as the attitude of provincialized college teachers towards research in Nagaon district of Assam.

Research: Research is an important activity for the development of scientific and technical knowledge. Educational research is a problem solving tool that seeks to utilize available knowledge of processes and relationships with given resource to arrive at a solutions to certain problems in education. In this study research implies as a professional activity of the college teachers.

VIII. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study is delimited to the following points-

- 1) The study is delimited to provincialized degree colleges in Nagaon district of Assam.
- 2) The study is delimited to selected (15 colleges) colleges in Nagaon district of Assam.
- 3) The study is further delimited to Arts and Science streams colleges in Nagaon district of Assam.

IX. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Kumar (2016) conducted a study on “Research aptitude of different academic streams at post graduate level”. The study aimed at to assess the research aptitude of post graduate students of Haryana. The study was conducted on 150 students and the finding shows negative attitude among the post-graduate students towards research.

Butt and Sham (2013) conducted “A study in Master in education students’ attitudes towards research: A comparison between two public sector universities in Punjab, which explored the student teacher attitudes towards research”. The result showed that student teachers have a negative attitude towards research.

Meethuswamy, Vanitha, Suganthan and Ramesh (2013) conducted “A study on Attitude towards research among the Doctoral students”. The study found that a positive attitude towards research in a key to success and progress in the knowledge based societies.

Kharsati (2012) conducted a study on “A study of the attitude of NEHU research scholars towards research.” The main objective of the study was to study the attitude of

NEHU research scholars towards research. The findings of the study were that there exists insignificant difference in the attitude of male and female research scholars towards research, and the research scholars of NEHU have shown above average attitude towards research.

X. METHODOLOGY

The present study is conducted using descriptive survey method. The tool which used for the study was Attitude Scale towards Research (Bhatnagar, 2007). The tool “Attitude scale towards Research” developed by Dr. Vishal Sood and Prof. Y. K. Sharma (2012). The universe of the study was College teachers of Nagaon District. The population consisted of 560 College teachers (permanent) from 15 different govt. degree Colleges of Nagaon District. The size of the sample selected 168 out of the total population 560 government degree College teachers of Nagaon district under Directorate of Higher Education of Assam. For the collecting of all relevant data, the investigator personally visited all the government Colleges of Nagaon District taken as sample. The data that have been gathered for the present study was of quantitative type. As the present study is mainly based on examining group attitude and differences between variables, the statistical techniques employed for the study are Mean, Median, Mode, Skewness, Kurtosis, Standard Deviation and Z test. The whole analysis is made through using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 16) software.

XI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

Objective 1

To study the levels of Attitude of College Teachers towards Research in Nagaon district of Assam.

In order to analyze the first objective, the central tendencies like mean median and mode, divergence from normality like skewness and kurtosis scores and dispersion like standard deviation were calculated to know the level of attitude towards research of college teachers in Nagaon district of Assam as shown in table no 4.1

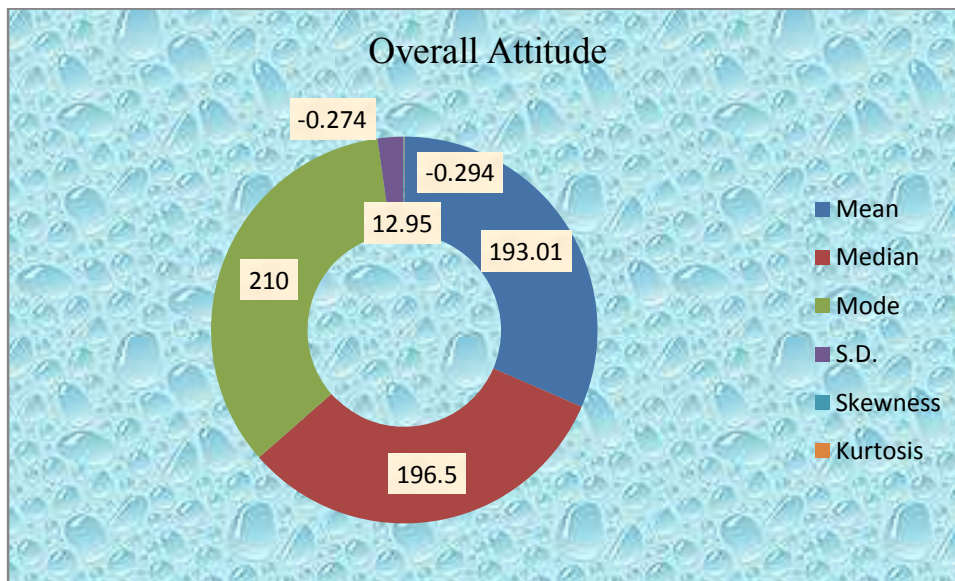


Figure 4.1 Attitude of College Teachers towards Research in Nagaon district of Assam

Source: Field Survey 2018

The table 4.1 and the figure no 4.1 reveals that the scores of mean, median, mode, skewness and kurtosis of scores of college Teachers towards Research in the study area. The mean, median, mode, skewness and kurtosis are respectively found to be 193.01, 196.50, 210, -.294, -.274 and with a Standard deviation of 12.95. The table 4.1 reveals that the value of skewness was -.294. Thus scores were negatively skewed and most of college teachers in Nagaon district of Assam scored high. Again the value of Kurtosis for the sample was -.274, which was higher than the normal curve (.263). It reveals that the distribution was platikurtic in nature that is more flat than the normal curve.

Again the following table 4.1 reveals the level of attitude of college teachers towards research in Nagaon district of Assam as categorized in the Attitude Scale towards Research (Sood & Sharma, 2010).

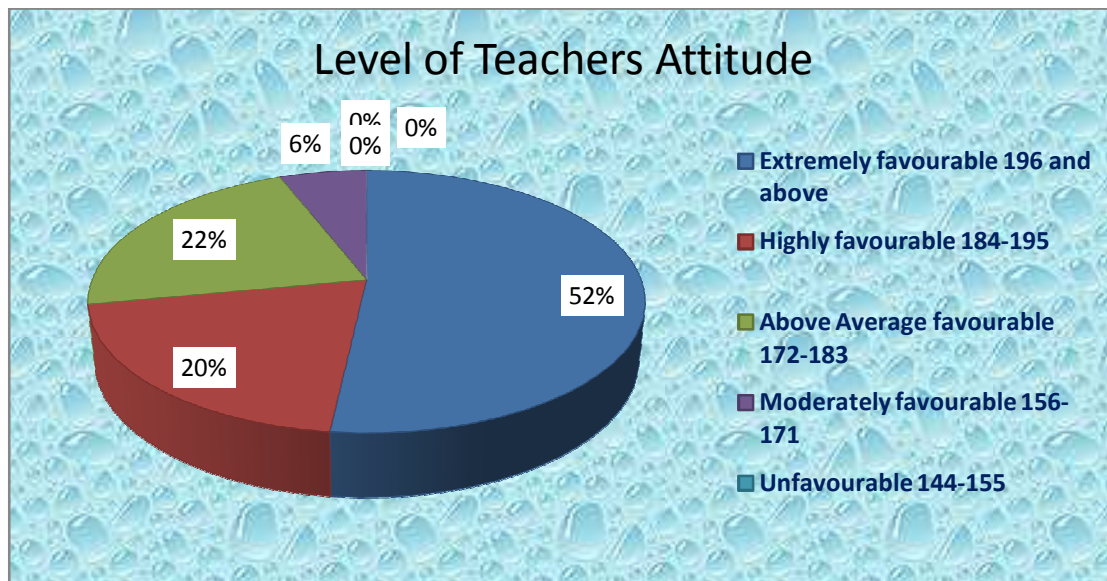


Figure 4.2 Graphical representations of levels of Attitude of College Teachers towards Research of Nagaon district in Assam.

Source: Field Survey 2018

The Table 4.2 and Figure 4.2 shows seven levels of research attitudes i. e extremely favourable, highly favourable, above average favourable, moderately favourable, unfavourable, highly unfavourable and extremely unfavourable attitudes on the basis of range of raw scores from the manual. The interpretation shows 51.79% teachers has extremely favourable attitude, 20.24% has highly favourable attitude, 22.02% has above average favourable attitude and 5.95% has moderately favourable attitude towards research. unfavourable, highly unfavourable and extremely unfavourable attitudes teachers were not found.

XII. CONCLUSION

The study assessed the Attitude towards research relating to general aspects of research and research process, usefulness of research in professional career, relevance of research in personal-social life, difficulties in research and research anxiety. The analyses of the study prove that the concept of attitude towards research is multi-dimensional. These dimensions help the investigator to find out the attitudes of college teachers towards research.

The findings and discussion of the study indicates that most of the teachers have favourable attitude towards research of Nagaon district of Assam. But there are certain areas where developments are required. It is very important to formation of favourable attitude towards research among the college teachers. One's attitude influences mentally how a person mentally approaches research including all the work and human interactions related to that research. It has been observed that the mean scores of college teachers are 193.01, which indicate that the college teachers has positive attitude towards research. We can say that college teachers of Nagaon district has positive attitude towards research. The study found that most of the college teachers that is 51.79 per cent have extremely favourable attitude towards research in this study area. From this study it is observed that the college teachers have a favourable attitude towards research and it helps to give a positive impact on society.

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