

Role of Social Research in Higher Education Institutions (HEI)

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Abstract: Social research is an important part of knowledge gain. Social research introduces to study of social phenomena as well as social problems gain to new knowledge and verifying old facts. Higher education institutions contribute to a better future and rethinking of a particular phenomenon. The role of research in an academic institution is significant for its sustainability and development. It is an innovation of knowledge. In higher education institutions, the quality of research work promotes diverse knowledge behind the particular topic. Good social research is an extremely useful skill which helps in gathering knowledge, analyzing information, thinking critically and renovating the mind. The Higher Education Institution is important for developing human resources with social, economic, political and other aspects. The lack of an encouraging academic environment, libraries, and inadequate infrastructure is the dismal picture of research in higher education institutions. This study is based on secondary data. This study attempts to know the role of innovative social research in Higher Education Institutions as well as the challenges of HEI.

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Introduction :

Higher Education Institutions (HEI) comprises all post-secondary education, training and research guidance as education institutions. The universities, colleges are authorized as institutions of higher education in public and private level. The HEI are primarily nodal centers for academic research in India. The HEI helps student to engage not for latest developments and information in the subject but also inculcate research mind among the students which help them in their career.

Social research means scientific study of social problems, social phenomena to find out new things and verify the old things. Social research takes major role in understating of various concepts including idea and various aspects of human life. Researchers are study various issues and problem with scientific procedures. Social research help to find out hidden reality of society. Social researchers make scientific temperament for conducting of research study. Social science research is a systematic method to find, analyze, conceptualize of knowledge of particular phenomenon or social problems. It is logical understanding of social phenomenon.

According to P.V. Young characterizes, ‘Social research as a scientific understanding which by means of logical methods, aim to discover new facts or old facts and to analyze their sequences, interrelationships, casual explanations and natural laws which govern them.

The assessment of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) has a long history where the United States of America (USA) and the Europe have been pioneers. In the UK, the first research assessment exercise and transformed into a research excellence framework from 2008. (Mukhopadhyay, et.al. :2018)

In twenty first Century, the relationship between higher education institution and research added significance role to find out new fact and new data. Research is known as centers of learning part in higher education institution. The Higher Education Institution conducting research on systematic basis.

Academic Ranking of World Universities system starting from 2003, which has been presenting the world top universities annually based on a set of objective indicators and data. Global Higher Education Institution ranking agencies identify top universities with

academic quality and research work. Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) mention four criteria about Global Higher Education Institution:

- i. Quality of Education
- ii. Quality of Faculty
- iii. Research Output
- iv. Per- capita performance

On the basis of ARWU ranking researchers are opine that the ranking systems give importance to research performance could lead to deleterious effects on institutional diversity and quality. (Mukhopadhyay, et.al. 2008)

Verillaud (2008) mention three trends are shaping education and research as a process:

- I. Increase in international mobility in tertiary education, which is giving rise to new modes of competition within higher education and research.
- II. Economic competition, which is now playing a key role in higher education and research, and
- III. Competition amongst academic and research institutions, which is impacting on their concentration, diversification and modernization.

Review of Literature:

Alemu, S.K. (2018), highlight importance of higher education system in Africa. This article importance on the University role and function to improve research-based activities.

Bleiklie, I and Powell, W.W, (2005) focus on universities as a part of production of knowledge in higher education institutions. The university is agent of transmission who help given productivity and efficiency of the knowledge to the students. The universities are taken role in knowledge production, knowledge generation and knowledge regimes. The research, science and technology are the major source in higher education institutions.

Delaney, A.M. (1997), explain the current roles of institutional research among diverse institution. This article highlights the implications of these roles for the education and training of institutional researchers and proposes how the institutional research prepare in higher education institutions.

Morris, B. (1967) explain the educational research and its importance. The educational research provides for planning of research activity. The educational research help to judgment of basic idea about different topic.

Mukhopadhyay, P., et.al. (2018) focus on use the ranking of HEI as a measure of quality. This study evaluates four Indian national ranking agency methodologies and proposes an alternative framework for the ranking of HEIs in India.

Teichler, U. (1999), explain the relationship between higher education and research. The aim of this article is focused the ways of mainstream research in industrialized societies. The relationship between higher education and research are predominant with each other. This article explains major problems and challenges of higher education institutions.

Verillaud, F (2008), explain new trend and fact of higher education and research in twenty first century. This article describes the impact of higher education system in globalization process. This article highlights the crucial role of technological sophistication and knowledge economy in international competition.

Objectives of the Study:

- i. To know the importance of social research in Higher Education Institutions
- ii. To know the role of innovative social research in Higher Education Institutions
- iii. Find out challenges of Higher Education Institutions.

Methodology :

This paper is totally based on descriptive method. This study based on secondary data. Data are collected from books, journal, and other recorded sources.

Analysis:

The role of research in an academic institution is significant for its sustainability and development. It is an innovation of knowledge. In higher education institutions, the quality of research work promotes diverse knowledge behind the particular topic. Good social research is an extremely useful skill which helps in gathering knowledge, analyzing

information, thinking critically and renovating the mind. The Higher Education Institution is important for developing human resources with social, economic, political and other aspects.

Role of Higher Education in Social Science Research:

i. Development of Human Resource: The Higher Education Institution help in development of human resource. The HEI helps to introduce new knowledge on different phenomena and problems of society. The social research help to get reform of human resource.

ii. Knowledge transformation: The social science research simply identifies as findings new data and verify the existing data. Therefore, the social research helps to gain new knowledge and transformation of human society.

iii. Civil society growth: An important research work helps to growth of new society. The social science research applies for gathering original data. It helps to find out actual and hidden knowledge of society.

iv. Scientific explanation: A social research is based on scientific temperament. Science is a method of approach to entire empirical world which help to systematic data any body of knowledge.

v. Reform gender discrimination: The higher education institution concern about equality of education between all students. Therefore, it helps in reform gender discrimination in society. The social research tries to find out reality of society. Therefore, researcher try to find out actual data with the method of verstehen.

The globalization process is deeper impact on higher education and social science research. In today's digital era, many academic institutions have gradually connected with one another to build global networks. The technological revolution, software, library information, innovative learning is the major roles impact on research. The global networks interconnected with students in global level. The INFLIBNET, SHODHGANGA, NICNET, OPNET, DELNET and other global network connected the students in different way. The University Grants Commission, New Delhi introduce Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre for involved modern university library in India for utilization

of information and sources. It helps to academicians and researcher to promote scholarly communication with information.

Role of higher education institution in new cycle of international mobility:

International student exchanges are new planning for higher education institution. This program identifies with encouraging the students to connect international level, common identity, contact with knowledge, experience, language and culture. The higher education institution gets opportunities to students through mobility of students. It helps in essence of knowledge production and transmission.

Role of Universities as an agent of Higher Education Institution engaged in the conduct of social research: Universities engage in research as part of their missions around learning and discovery. This, in turn, contributes directly and indirectly to their primary mission of teaching. Universities and colleges take research as part of their mission and vision. The scholarly activity included as a part in Social Science and Humanities. The applied research is main based found in this institution. As a broad concept the Universities are benefits from research programs. Active research is formulated timely to look out the actual realities of society. The universities are becomes known for its research in certain fields which connected the researcher, faculty and society. The positive vibrant of the research helps to define a university as “brand” in the national and international level.

The functions of Educational Institution included both public and private sector are different in different level. The higher education institution positively motives the students to connect societal nexus.

Educational Levels	Main Function
Pre-school Education	Education Care
Primary Education	Education
Secondary Education	Education
Higher Education	Education Research

Challenges of higher education and research:

- i. Increased inequalities between academic institutions.
- ii. Challenges in connection between research, teaching and economic growth.
- iii. Difficulties in assessing the quality of teaching and research products.
- iv. Difficulties in technological arrangement.
- v. Lack of uniformities between academic institutions.
- vi. Lack of an encouraging academic environment, libraries and inadequate infrastructure

Conclusion:

Higher Education Institution engage research as part of their missions. Research has always been an integral part HEI. The Higher Education Institution are primarily nodal centers for Academic Research in India. The Higher Education Institution help student to engage not for latest developments and original information in the subject but also inculcate research mind among the students which helps them in their career. □

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