



Educational Research Highly Essential for Nation Building

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ABSTRACT

Human beings are distinct from animals because of their knowledge and ability to use this knowledge, we understand, control, product or cope up with a given situation; because of this knowledge we are on the loath to development.

Research in education or classroom research is very inevitable for providing useful and dependable knowledge through which the process of education can be made more effective and its various purposes can be fulfilled. Against this background, a modest attempt has been made to focus on issues related with educational research in India. Further, it envisages problems encountered and provides remedial measures for improving the status of educational research in India.

KEYWORDS : Educational Research, Good Research, knowledge Economy, Logical and Objective, Nation Building

Research for New Knowledge

Research is a diligent enquiry and careful investigation for new knowledge through systematic, sufficient and analytical approach in any branch of knowledge. The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (1952) defines research as "a careful investigation or inquiry specially through search for new faults in any branch of knowledge". In very concise words, Redman and Mory (1923) define research as a "Systematized effort to gain knowledge". Constant search and research are the guiding factors of research which help to discover new facts (kumar, 2002). The search for new knowledge also helps to accept or reject or modify existing facts or knowledge that is already available in the existing literature.

Research

is a scientific process.

leads to the solution of an existing problem

directs towards the development of new principles of theories or modifies the existing literature that will be helpful in predicting future occurrences.

is based upon observable experiences or empirical evidences.

demands accurate observations and description of the fact(s).

involves gathering new data for defined purposes.

is characterized by patience and unhurried activities.

is carefully recorded and reported.

is the task of experts or specialists in the related discipline of the study.

is an intellectual task.

Educational Research

An application of scientific and other research methods to the study of educational problems is the field of "educational research". It refers to a systematic attempt to gain a better understanding of the educational process taking place inside or outside the classroom, generally with an aim of importing its efficiency. Monroe(1950) states, "the final purpose of educational research is to ascertain principles and develop procedures in the field of education". Educational Research is a process of development of organized and useful body of scientific knowledge which are academic and are concerned with. It attempts to attain knowledge about the nature of children, how they learn and how they grow.

Educational research is

logical and objective in nature.

systematic and accurate investigation.

purposive.

inter-disciplinary.

study of cause and effect relationship.

a field of research of behavior; so not as exact as research in physical sciences.

not the field of an academican only.

not a costly affair.

Need for Research in Education

Since education is a behavioural science, the main objective of educational research is to understand explain and to some extent product and control human behavior in educational settings. Research in education or classroom research is very inevitable for providing useful and dependable knowledge through which the process of education can be made more effective and its various purposes can be fulfilled. The various purposes of educational research which show the need for research in education may include

Progress

System and

Economy

Educational research leads to better quality of life of a human being and the progress of a nation. J.W.Best(1977) opines "Research is considered to be more formal, systematic, intensive process of carrying on the scientific method of analysis. it involves a more systematic structure of investigation usually resulting in some sort of formal record of procedures and a report of results or conclusions". Educational Research guides us and shows us the adequate and accurate path that how should we take next step towards success in quantitative life and education. It ultimately leads to progress of the nation.

Educational research helps in

Theoretical base building,

Development of education as a discipline,

Expansion of education and

Understanding the changing concept of education.

Areas of Educational Research

The important areas of educational research are

Pre-Primary Education

Primary Education

Secondary Education

Higher Education

Agricultural and Technical Education

Professional Education

Non-formal Education

Special Education

Teaching Process

Women's Education

Adult Education

Management of Education

Teacher Education

Legal Education

Language Education

Science Education

Mathematics Education

Social Science Education

Educational Technology

Guidance and Counseling

Economics of Education

Philosophy of Education

History of Education

Sociology of Education

Psychology Education

Evaluation and Examination

Educational Research in India

Educational research in India does not possess a very long history. It took birth in India when the Bombay University awarded the first Ph.D degree in education in 1943 to Dr. V Chickermane for his thesis entitled "Factor analysis of Arithmetical Ability". Since then, there has been considerable growth of educational or classroom research all over the nation. However, it was in 1917, when education made its first entry in all the university system when a Department of education was established in the University of Calcutta to study educational problems in a systematic manner.

Some important steps of educational research process include

Identification of the research problem

Scan the existing environment

Fix the objectives /alternatives of study

Scan the existing literature

Formulate the hypothesis

Develop the research plan

Planning a sampling

Collect the required information

Tabulation and execution of data

Testing the hypothesis

Finding the relevance

Preparation of the report or, if necessary, calling public opinion and

Presentation of the results and findings

We can have the following typology of educational research:

Historical Research

Descriptive Research

Correlation Research

Casual-Comparative Research

Experimental Research

Action

Field Level Research

In order to study the problem of research we have together some data to test our hypothesis. To collect the data, many different tools, methods and procedures are available. We should remember that data are of two types:

Qualitative data and

Quantitative data.

There are two main sources of data viz.

Primary data sources and

Secondary data sources.

Methods which are frequently used to collect primary data may be

Direct observation

Questionnaire

Schedule

Interview.

Secondary data or documentary sources may be

Personal documents

Public and official documents.

Shortcomings of Educational Research

Buch (1991) suggests that some major shortcomings of educational research are

Absence of clear Educational Perspective

Absence of Conceptual Framework

Inadequate Understanding of the research process

Relevance of Educational Research

Suggested Measures for Improvement

Consistent and honest efforts are to be made by every individual and institution concerned for improving the state of educational research in our country and this can only be achieved by being a very objective and sensitive researcher. Some suggestive measures which may be helpful in improving the status of educational research are

Organization of Educational Research

Training of Researchers

Promotion of Educational Research

Dissemination of Research

Proper understanding of Research Ethics

Linking Research to Practice

A good research follows scientific methods. Hence, a research team while executing any research work should consider following factors carefully:

Purpose should be clearly defined

Should be based on ethics

Research design methodologies should be clear and well planned

The researcher should be a skilled expert

Unbiased analysis of results

The conclusion should be justified

Scope for further research

Concluding Remarks

In a nutshell, it can be concluded that educational and/or classroom research is a science as well as an art, and its nature is scientific. All the characteristics of science are possessed by educational research but during research is not merely a science but an art also, because research is not a mechanical process; rather it requires the in-depth understanding of the problem to be studied, complete knowledge of the research process, and an insight into the skillful solution of research problems. In order to attain the desired objectives, we must take into consideration insight, intelligence, extensive knowledge and research skills. Definitely, effective research especially educational research will lead India to emerge as a 'knowledge economy' which paves the way towards nation building.

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