

Vol 4 Issue 6 Dec 2014

ISSN No :2231-5063

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International Multidisciplinary  
Research Journal

Golden Research  
Thoughts

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Publisher  
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**RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595**

**ISSN No.2231-5063**

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## IMPROVING THE RANK OF UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA (The pursuit of doctoral research should be made open and the recruitment of teaching and research faculty separately in Universities/Colleges)

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**Abstract:-** The doctoral research should be relieved of the traditional shackles that have hitherto restricted registration of those that seriously wished to pursue doctoral research with the regular system of higher education. It is essential to ameliorate the situation that has dumped aspirants from whom contributions in intellectual arena and generation of new knowledge could have been expected. Pursuit of research should be made open bypassing the need to qualify for UGC- National Eligibility Test for lectureship (NET)/Junior research fellowship (JRF). Only the quality of synopsis should be the criterion for enrollment under doctoral research. Also, teaching and research faculty should be recruited separately to ameliorate the situation that is also hampering intellectual contributions and generation of new knowledge. Whatever may be the criteria for ranking universities (India centered or not), it is hope that it will help make improvement.

**Keywords:** Doctoral research, teaching faculty, research faculty, UGC-NET/JRF

### INTRODUCTION

The necessity to adopt uniform and realistic criteria for admissions to PhD programs was felt in a recent study (Renu Phaugat and Anupama, 2014) to ameliorate the situation that has dumped aspirants who wish to sincerely pursue research and therefore left out from joining the mainstream due to defective criteria adopted by the Universities. It was identified that direct entry for pursuing doctoral research has become a mirage for candidates who qualified UGC-JRF. Quality of synopsis should be the criterion for direct entry and not the merit that is based on weight-age and academic record. We are lagging behind China and America in terms of qualitative and quantitative output in research by adopting defective criteria for admissions into doctoral research and recruitment of faculty in Universities and Colleges both for teaching and research with common parameters in mind. Generally, the candidates for doctoral research are found blank with novel ideas even after clearing UGC-JRF/NET. This loophole accounts for the severe deficiency in research output in terms of quality. It is identified that process through which research is pursued is far away in the manner in which test is conducted at national level to select candidates for awarding research fellowship. And the test could not be the same (UGC-NET for lectureship and Junior Research Fellowship) when the nature of teaching and research is different. After qualifying only NET for lectureship, the wish to acquire a job or enrolling in Phd program is quite difficult in both respects and subsequently idling grapples them. Therefore, this little piece of research work identified the solutions to overcome these

shortcomings in system of higher education in India.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

##### **RIGHT TO RESEARCH:**

It is human urge that forces mankind to search and explore the surroundings to eliminate threat that poses challenge for survival. Preparation for competitive examinations that encourages cramming and learning things at random will certainly break the natural cycle of development of thoughts in a particular direction. This cycle helps not only to understand subject matter thoroughly but also to search for solutions to incumbent problems facing humanity. The time, energy and material resources spent in qualifying competitive examinations such as UGC-NET/JRF could have been directed towards learning things that would improve not only the understanding in a particular direction but quality of life as well. By emphasizing the need for competitive examinations we always undermine and distort the natural tendency to search for solutions to problems in a particular field. The people who turned the wheel of human civilization have never appeared in competitive examinations. And many an institutions in the world are founded in their name and therefore given birth to further explorations in the respective disciplines. Through his findings, innovation or invention a person becomes the 'first user' or educate himself and therefore knowledge will be available for humanity. This kind of urge should not be made a victim of current education system where registration for pursuing doctoral research is very difficult owing to the deficiencies in the criteria and procedures adopted by the Universities. Therefore, the pursuit of research with the regular system of higher education should be made a basic right.

##### **STATE'S OBLIGATION:**

The rush for registration into doctoral program could be tackled by introducing integrated course (where one is enrolled for post-graduate program as well as Phd program). It is State's obligation to provide infrastructure and manpower to provide free and compulsory elementary education in the age group of six to fourteen similarly the problem of rush for the registration into doctoral program could be handled through recruitment of more Professors only to conduct and supervise the research (periodical assessment of the research work and the enrolment is only on the basis of quality of synopsis) along with providing infrastructure. Therefore the pursuit of research should be made open bypassing integrated course and traditional national level tests.

##### **FATE OF NET/JRF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES:**

The criteria for getting admission into doctoral research adopted by Universities in India in general and four Universities namely Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Indira Gandhi National Open University and Maharshi Dayanand University in particular were further analyzed to know the fate of NET qualified candidates. It is found that the criteria adopted by JNU and DU do not provide for weight-age or direct entry for the candidates who are NET qualified. MDU criteria provide weight-age of only 25 percentage marks. We refer to it as weight-age and not a direct entry according to a recent study (RenuPhaugat and Anupama, 2014).

"No emphasis was given to the quality of synopsis and therefore, direct entry became a mirage. Regrettably, MDU didn't follow the procedure maintained by the DU and JNU in respect of direct entry and/or considered quality of synopsis as criterion for direct entry bypassing the entry test".

Out of these four universities only the criterion adopted by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) provides for direct entry to the candidates who are NET qualified. Then what would be the fate of NET qualified candidates when there are only a few universities in India where NET qualified candidates are exempted from appearing in entrance examination. The only option left with them is to enroll in a private university where criteria is relaxed as compared to state and centrally-funded universities. As pursuing doctoral research from a private university is quite costly it could be difficult for a candidate from an economically weaker section to get enrolled for pursuing doctoral research. When the chance to get a job only on the basis that fulfills minimum eligibility

condition for lectureship (NET) is quite dim, the efforts for acquiring the qualification goes waste. The recruitment as Post Graduate Teaching faculty (PGT) in schools is another route that saves them from unemployment and the qualification of UGC-NET proves it worth. It is not worthy for the candidates who are post graduate in management studies because they are ineligible as post graduate teacher. If one has not become successful in securing a seat for pursuing doctoral research with regular system of University whether UGC-NET/JRF qualified or not it could drive them out of research. As a consequence, loss of interest in research ensues because formal degree is a prerequisite to enter into the regular system of University and to become a professor or a researcher.

**RECRUITMENT OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH FACULTY:**

According to the criteria adopted by MDU, the candidates who qualified for UGC- JRF out- compete the candidates who qualified for UGC-NET. Therefore, these candidates are left out of the stream and it becomes hard for them to find even employment on the basis of UGC-NET. The recruitment board should consider only UGC-NET for teaching faculty and UGC-NET/PhD or PhD as research faculty/Professors. As the nature of teaching and research is inherently different, therefore test conducted at national level(UGC-NET for lectureship and Junior Research Fellowship) and should not be same to determine the aptitude for teaching as well as research. The responsibility of a teacher is to update and delivers lecture according to syllabus whereas professorship means generation of new knowledge. Creativity is a 24 hour job that shouldn't be paralyzed with the duties of regular lectures, administrative duties and examination duties. We learn from a Professor by meticulously observing his way of doing work and reading the literature produced and enriches our selves further with spells of discussions. According to recent ranking of Universities at world level, the position we have secured is a sign of falling standards in teaching and research. In India, there is no system in place to ascertain the quality of teaching. Now the quality of teaching is in dire state. Only National Eligibility Test is not relevant which should be supplemented with training as it is for other fields such as administrative cadre.

**NET AND INDIRA GANDHI UNIVERSITY, MEERPUR, REWARI, HARYANA:**

Usually, the academic fraternity by taking into account National Eligibility Test for Lectureship as only an eligibility condition and not a guarantee that you are a lecturer or become a lecturer hints that test for JRF conducted by UGC is meant only for scholarship as a stipend and it has nothing to do with getting direct admissions for pursuing doctoral research. History is replete with examples when no one argued and the test was taken again even after possessing the minimum eligibility condition for lectureship (NET) for the recruitment of Assistant Professors for regular post in faculty of Management, Indira Gandhi University, Meerpur, Rewari (a state-run university) only to see in the end that it was met with severe irregularity in favor of some special candidates. The standards were at the stake and everything had been concealed behind the test at that time. Therefore, the rationale to provide weight-age instead of direct entry (enrollment on the basis of quality of synopsis) puts those candidates who qualified for JRF in trouble.

**CONCLUSION:**

The only way in sight to improve the rank of Universities in India is through quality of teaching and research. As the nature of both is quite different therefore recruitment of teachers and Professors should be made separately in Universities and colleges of India. The doctoral research should be relieved of the traditional shackles that have hitherto restricted registration of those that seriously wished to pursue doctoral research with the regular system of higher education. National Eligibility Test conducted by University Grants Commission (UGC) should be limited to lectureship only. The fate of UGC-NET qualified candidates that hangs like a pendulum only to move to and fro from one institution to another in search of a suitable job could be overturned only when we take note of all the deficiencies in the system stated above.

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