

DECCAN Chronicle

MY VIEW

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Generally at the research level, the process of selection cannot be done like it's done at any other mass programme. Ph.Ds have a specific skill set and we need to ensure that



the examination that we have for selecting students should help in tapping the skill set one needs for doing a Ph.D.

At the doctoral level, we need to have a much more sophisticated way in which we evaluate who is to be taken into the programme. At other levels, it is okay to select people according to rank. But in this case, it must test the research aptitude of a student.

The students should be selected according to the guide, so it's not a good idea to force a guide to pick a student from a list of students who have done well in an exam. There must be a relevant, reasonable degree of autonomy as well as accountability in the role that the guide plays. Of course, you don't want the guide to become vindictive toward a student.

It must be the area in which the guide works. A student might be brilliant, but if there are no suitable or qualified guides in that area, however brilliant the student might be, there is no room. It's not just the brilliance of the student which is important here, but the capacity of the researcher, availability of infrastructure and ability to guide the student in a particular area.

The student might well say that he has a right to work in a particular area, especially if he has a good rank. All these factors need to be taken into account for an ideal Ph.D. programme.

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