



Connecting Thinkers...



Editors' Message



Dear Thinkers,

Often in our professional lives, when we assume newer roles, we tend to gloss over how we fared in our earlier roles. A classic example would be recalling our roles as students once we became teachers and supervisors. In the month that went by, I had two pleasant encounters that vividly reminded me of this fact. I attended a conference in Delhi, and met some teachers who had taught me during college. They remembered my class and narrated specific incidents and I was pleasantly surprised at the small details that they recalled, even though it was more than a decade ago. Just then, I was approached by someone who had participated in a workshop I had conducted two years ago. She recognized me and was elated to discover that I remembered her as well. While we spoke about her recent admission to the doctoral programme at a University, she offered to introduce me to her Supervisor. To our surprise, one of my college teachers was now her Supervisor and while she introduced me to her saying 'Ma'm had taught us during a workshop', her supervisor in turn said, '...and I have taught your Ma'm several years ago'!

The second incident relates to a commitment my colleague and I had made to one the Professors who taught us during the Master's programme. We were supposed to train the students of the current batch and help them in writing papers. While those papers underwent several rounds of corrections and revisions, my Professor was not too pleased about us missing several deadlines, in order to 'perfect' all papers! Anticipating a reprimand, during one of the conversations, I was happily surprised when he pointed out how far we had come from our own relaxed days as Masters' students to the meticulous planning that we were doing for the present exercise.

The point of narrating these incidents is that no matter what we achieve in life, as students, we always remember our teachers fondly, and are grateful to them for how they shaped our lives. But at the same time, our teachers also don't forget us and feel a personal accomplishment in all our achievements. This point is further strengthened when one observes the supervisors clapping enthusiastically as their students' names are announced at the convocation to receive their doctoral degrees. So, no matter what you achieve in life, and whether you are, a teacher or a student right now, the relation between the two will always be a very special one.

Inside the Issue

<i>Guide's Column</i>	2
<i>Article by Rashmi Ainaapur</i>	3
<i>Article by Rohit Rammurthy</i>	3
<i>Article by Dr. Priyanca Mathur Velath</i>	4
<i>Article by Kakali Roy Chowdhury</i>	5
<i>Achievements and Publications</i>	6
<i>Responses to Thinklet</i>	7
<i>Ph.D Comic</i>	7

GUIDE'S COLUMN

Research in Horticulture

During a Post-Graduation course, a student gets an opportunity to do the work of her choice. Post-graduation has essentially two phases; in the master's degree programme the student gets introduced to the basics of research including writing of thesis. In this phase, the onus is on the teacher or guide as it is important to develop the student's aptitude and the student is made to look at things from a research perspective. Essentially, she should be taught to identify the gaps in the chosen field, the selection of the problem and the hypothesis that is being tested.

Master's degree programme and choice of the problem

Basic science forms the backbone of understanding for applied research in horticulture. Making the student aware of this at the master's stage is of paramount importance in shaping up her career. Hence, while allotting the problem of research, the guide has to concentrate on the courses that a student has to take depending on the problem of research. The student should have exposure in as many fields as possible without losing the actual objective of specialization. Hence, the research problem has to concentrate on couple of objectives as the time duration that a student gets to do research work is only one year and the depth of the study is also limited. The objective has to be crisp and achievable. The basis of choosing the problem, designing the experiments and analysis should be learnt during M.Sc. programme. Many students get into the mode of understanding that only getting results which are 'significant' would be the achievement of objective, which is not true. The hypothesis can be proved right or wrong.

In the field of horticulture, the problem of research can either be lab oriented or field oriented. Either way, there is a need to expose the student to both the aspects. The research problem chosen should address a part of the larger problem. So, research in the larger perspective would be deriving fruitful outcome from such work. However, one of the lacunae that we see generally is with regard to the course work not being connected to the research work due to the delay in choosing the problem. Hence, we end up with youngsters not being confident about the subject in which they have taken up research. But this is not say that students should not take other general courses apart from the ones in which they are specialising in. The student should be introduced to the art of writing the research paper. Hence, making mistakes and repeated corrections should form the part of this.

PhD programme and choice of the problem

In the PhD programme, the student gets more time for research. Depending on the specialization, the student can be asked to start a new research problem or repeat one again as part of the bigger perspective. Although the duration in most cases go beyond three years, it is better that the student finishes within the stipulated time or at the most extending it by another six months. It is always advisable that the student continues the same subject of his master's degree programme, which would give her additional confidence and in-depth knowledge of the subject. As it is generally presumed that students who take up PhD tend to continue their career as researchers, it would be better if he or she takes up a problem that would address basic aspect as well as the applied. The art of writing papers, drawing conclusion from the experiments, should be refined during this stage. The reviewing of the work done in relevant aspects and encouraging the student to write reviews of the connected aspects with the research problem would prepare her for ensuing a fruitful research career.

The research problem chosen should have two or three clear objectives. In the case of perennial horticultural crops, the problem has to be part of the wider aspects such as production technology, improvement, physiology or biotechnology. However, it is wrong to say that worthwhile objectives cannot be achieved in perennials in a short period. Objectives can be achieved even if sometimes they provide supplementary information to the main investigation. But in the case of vegetables, flowers, which are basically annuals, cropping period is less. Hence, it is easy to conduct the experiments in two seasons, since results come in a short period.

In an applied science like horticulture, students should start the research early, choose the objectives clearly and specialize in a particular field by taking the courses, which are related to the problem. This enables the student to go in depth into a particular field and come out with a specialised perspective.

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Impeccable Research Journey

I enrolled for PhD at Jain University in 2012. The Induction program gave us the insight about the research process. We were told that PhD was not just a degree, but it could be completed successfully only when there was passion for the research work. The course work was meticulously designed to equip scholars with the knowledge required to carry out the research work flawlessly. The importance of statistics was highlighted and detailed statistics sessions were held by experienced faculty members to impart the knowledge. Then started the phase of data collection and analysis. This phase was the most challenging one, but also with lots of insights. It was here that a scholar got the in-depth knowledge about the research work that can be cherished throughout their lifetime. Throughout the research work, the support and guidance from the guide cannot be explained in words. Jain University expects quality work from its scholars, and though we sometimes feel overburdened with the tasks, at the end we will often be overwhelmed with the results. Hence, to call it an impeccable research journey in Jain University would not be wrong

The course work was meticulously designed to equip scholars with the knowledge required to carry out the research work flawlessly

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My Journey As a Researcher, So far...

When I enrolled myself for the PhD program, I was of the mindset that, the research program would come along with a lot of rules and regulations and I will have to stay on my toes in order to be in line with what the course would demand from me. The first session itself was an eye opener for me. I realized that, more than following instructions, it's all about developing a thirst for research and above that is retaining the same throughout your life. We had many professors coming in and addressing us and after each one of them concluded their talk, I could easily sense that, the real journey of a researcher begins after the completion of the entire course.

I think the biggest success is retaining continued interest and aiming at contributing to the best of our capabilities as researchers.

The biggest challenge for most of us in life is to retain continued interest about a particular thing that we take up and many a times we lose interest due to several factors that contribute as a hindrance. But, as far as a Doctoral course is concerned; I think the biggest success is retaining continued interest and aiming at contributing to the best of our capabilities as researchers. Lastly, I have had the opportunity to learn and unlearn many things as a part of the research coursework classes and I'm looking forward to the same in times to come. My biggest learning so far has been that commitment and continued interest will help you swim across all your challenges as a researcher, so keep it going no matter what.

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Gender Equality and Federalism: Importance of Increasing Women's Participation in Decentralised Governance

“If states are to be the laboratories of democracy, they need the freedom, power and flexibility to innovate, create and adapt policies that best meet the needs of their citizens”, said William T Pound. The federal form of decentralised governance is the option exercised by around 25 federal countries in the world like India, the US, Brazil, Germany and Mexico, representing nearly 40 per cent of the world's population. However, in this complex system of government, women, comprising over 50 per cent of the world's population, continue to be under-represented as voters, political leaders and elected officials.

Equitable participation of women, in politics and government, is essential to build and sustain democracy. A federal structure provides greater opportunity for women to enter politics by opening up more access points for new political actors. Research has shown that women can change the role of politics and legislative life because they bring a different point of view than their male counterparts. Women also change the way government works once they are in power, for example, they are more likely to criticise the status quo of democratic institutions; they are more likely to appoint or hire other women to change the way government works (Slack, Spicer and Montacer, 2014). Thus linking federalism and gender is crucial in order to create an environment where women can advocate on matters of policy, run for political office, be elected, govern effectively, and participate meaningfully.

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One of the biggest barriers that women face is the existence of the traditional patriarchal value system and gender stereotyping that favours sexually segregated roles, thereby perpetuating the social perception of women meant only for apolitical roles. It fallaciously binds leadership with masculinity and becomes a cultural barrier to women in political decision-making. Traditionally, political socialisation in the home and family, local community, and in schools and the workplace have relegated women to private spheres and not encouraged them to run for/seek political office.

Economically, the socio-economic status of women also goes a long way in determining to what extent women get a space in decentralised governance. Women experience lower socioeconomic status in general and hence are marginalized from making decisions at all levels. Lack of, or poor access to resources, services and employment, financial dependence on men (fathers, brothers, husbands), work stereotyping and gender distribution of labour (more women made to occupy economically invisible work) become further barriers.

In many countries participation of women in local governments is an important vehicle for driving change in the country's political landscape. Local governments are the cornerstone of democracy, often considered as the 'nursery for future leadership'. It is the place where practical experience of participation in governance is gathered; hence, it's critical that all sectors of society are represented here. Besides, the provision of basic services and citizens' perception of government invariably improves with an increase in the number of women in local leadership. However, there are risks involved too as women can end up being confined to participation only at the lower levels of governance, making the 'higher' levels inaccessible to them. Thus increasing the engagement of women at local levels should be seen essentially as a stepping stone and entry point for bringing in gender equality into federalism.

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A Journey to the Land of Cognisance

“Knowledge is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong journey to acquire it”.

Kautilya, a prodigal diplomatic genius, that human history has ever seen, was a man who sparked my inquisitiveness from day one. The unquenchable thirst to know him better, deeper and in a different way made me step into the ocean of knowledge again, after 13 years of breaking away from studies. ‘Amazing!!’ was my first reaction when I was pulled inside the depth of the readings of books based on political, historical, philosophical and sociological theories. The experience is as enigmatic as that of a diver who is pulled towards the depths of the ocean.

Machiavelli’s renowned work ‘The Prince’, bears a lot of similarities with Arthashastra

Kautilya’s book is a complete work that narrates socio-economic structure of a kingdom and statecrafts that may be still considered relevant in the modern day society irrespective of the pattern of governance it has. The 16th century Italian thinker, Niccolo Machiavelli’s renowned work ‘The Prince’, bears a lot of similarities with Arthashastra on warfare and governance. Machiavellian strategies are different from Kautilyan due to the cultural and periodical dissimilarity. Nevertheless, both the thinkers had similar opinions on a very vital point that both of them believed, the strategy, policy or theories, are good enough to follow for a king as ultimately the king has to decide his strategical approach as per the situation.

I have a strong perception that application of Kautilyan strategies is possible in the current political situation in order to have a benedictory rule for the people under democratic governance.

The ultimate joy of a strenuous journey lies in its success.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Workshops for Research Scholars– Batch of 2017

All Research Scholars of 2017 batch are requested to take note of the following compulsory workshops being announced as part of the second semester of the coursework.

For Ph.D Scholars of 2017 batch:

- 1) Six General Research Methods Workshops in May-June 2018. Out of the six workshops, you have to register for any three workshops. Registering for more than 3 workshops per research scholar will not be allowed due to space constraints.
- 2) Four Subject Specific Research Methods Workshops in July-August 2018. Out of the four workshops, you have to register for any three workshops. Registering for more than 3 workshops per research scholar will not be allowed due to space constraints.

These workshops will be for one day each, and will be held on Saturdays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

For M.Phil and Ph.D Scholars of 2017 batch:

- 1) Skill Development Workshops in June 2018. The SDP is a two-day workshop where the scholar has to compulsorily attend both the days and participate in all activities. Upon the announcement of the 2-day slots, you are requested to choose a convenient slot (Friday-Saturday, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm).

All workshops will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis. The dates will be announced shortly.

Achievements and Publications

Dr. Pritam G. Shah, Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, Jain University has been invited to present a paper titled 'A novel algorithm for bitcoin address generation by using elliptical curve cryptography' at the *10th International Conference on Future Computer and Communication (ICFCC 2018)*, Singapore to be held from 23rd to 25th April, 2018.

Dr. Pritam G. Shah, Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, Jain University filed a patent for An Apparatus and Method based on State Aware On-Demand Load Adaptive Routing (Solar) for MANET.

Mr. Varun M. Deshpande has been selected for the Global Intellect Educational Award 2018, in the category of Research and Innovation/ Academician (Region wise). He will present his finding and receive the award at the annual event of JSR Private Limited, India in Association with Asian Society for Scientific Research in the Honour of Academician/Scientist /Researchers of India and Overseas, in Pune on 7th April 2018.

Ms. Divya Prabhu P, Research Scholar, and Dr. G.S. Vijaya, Professor in Management, Jain University have published a paper titled 'Banking System for Rural Setting and Financial Inclusion: Outcomes From a Bird's Eye View Based on Pilot Study at D.K. District' in the *International Journal of Current Advanced Research*, ISSN: O: 2319-6475, ISSN: P: 2319-6505, Volume 6; Issue 12; December 2017; Page No.8396-8400.

Dr. Sarita Kothadia, Research Scholar in Cultural Studies, Jain University has published an article titled 'Contribution of Jaina Dasha Dharmas in Personality Development' in the *Vardhaman Mahavir Jainology Research Journal*, ISSN 2395 – 2245, Vol :1 Issue : 1, Jan 2018.

Mr. Pralhad Rao, Research Scholar in Computer Science has published an article titled 'Handling Unknown with Blend of Scan and Scan Compression' in *Journal of Electronic Testing: Theory and Applications*.

Fr. Vineeth George, M.Phil Scholar in Management presented a paper titled 'The Role of HRP in the Human Resource Network' at the International Conference *People Connect: Networking for Sustainable Development* held at St. Claret College, Bengaluru. The paper got published in the *Conference Special Issue of the International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts*, ISSN: 2320-2882 in March 2018.

Thinklet Congratulates the achievers and wishes them Good Luck for all their future endeavors!

***Life is riding a bicycle. To keep the balance, you must keep moving.
- Albert Einstein***

Response to Thinklet Issues

Prof. E.S. Dwarakadasa, Member of Academic Council, Jain University

Thank you for the March 2018 issue of THINKLET. I enjoyed reading through the issue. It also lets us know what kind of work is being done at Jain, especially the Ph.D. projects. I have been reading through successive issues of THINKLET that you send me regularly. The issues are well edited and contents well chosen. The editors deserve to be commended for this.

Dr. M.S. Raviprakash, Research Guide, Jain University

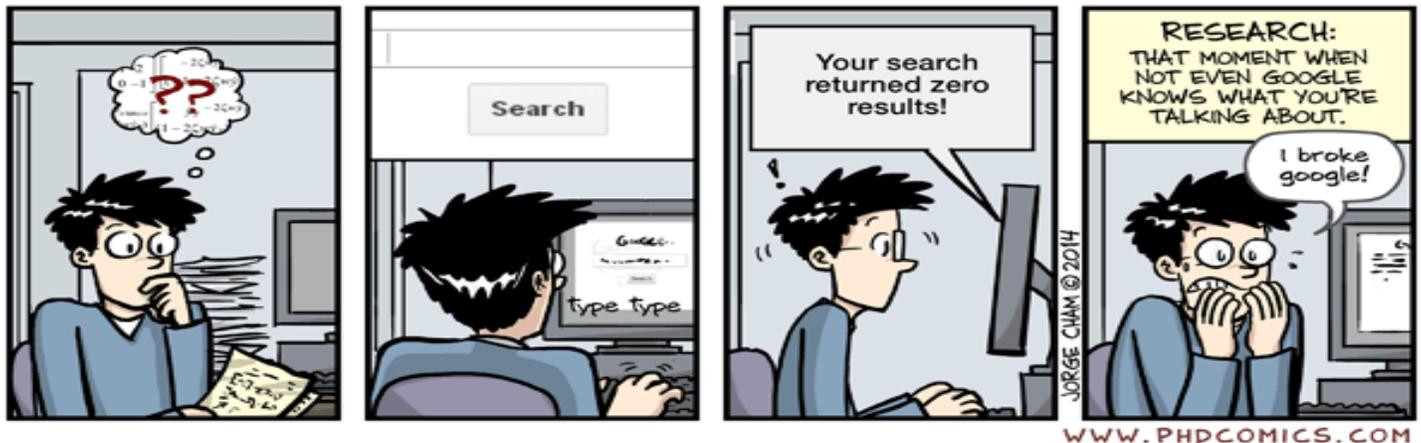
Thanks for the prompt and sincere dispatching of the THINKLET issues every month without missing any. I found that the magazine is assuming newer dimensions each time it is printed. For example you have included the information about the achievements of some of the Jain University Research scholars. It gives me immense pleasure in expressing my heartfelt thanks for all the hard and useful efforts made by your team. It definitely makes one to go through the issue with added anxiety and interest. Congratulations to you all.

Divya Prabhu P. Research Scholar in Management, Jain University

Thank you for the issues of Thinklet. Every month Thinklet gives me goosebumps when I read the articles by our scholar friends. Highly inspiring articles by senior faculty members and achievements of the fraternity of Jain University is a source of inspiration to us.

Kiran P, Research Scholar in Management, Jain University

Thank you for yet another wonderful issue of Thinklet (March 2018). Made very interesting reading.



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Articles for the next issue of Thinklet should be sent by **April 20, 2018** in not more than 250 words.

Guide's Column, Special articles, and reports of conferences organized/ attended can be 400-450 words

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, E-MAIL ADDRESS AND THE KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN OF YOUR INTEREST