



Connecting Thinkers...

Editors' Message



The other day I had a frantic call from a Research scholar who was keen on seeking permission to submit the thesis but did not have the second publication that was mandatory for submission. The researcher also wanted to know if it was 'enough' to get the paper published in 'xyz' journal or which other journal should be chosen. Since the matter was of great urgency the researcher was eager to just publish the paper somewhere - anywhere!! Given the primacy we give to quality at Jain University, we thought this needs to be the editorial focus this month.

Academic Publishing is becoming more and more important in the world of research. It is not just a need to publish anything, anyhow but the impact created by what we publish is more critical. There are many agencies which ascribe the impact factor to a journal and a paper. Impact is directly related to the amount of discussion that is generated because of the paper. Therefore higher the impact factor, the more successful the paper has been. Some important agencies which assign this impact factor are Thomson Reuters, Scopus and IEEE besides others. Publishing findings generated out of one's research work is the means to gain academic recognition and public impact.

Research work gathers momentum when we disseminate it through paper presentations at conferences and publications. Not only do publications refine the writing skills but also gives us an opportunity to learn from the review comments and the constructive feedback that we gain through peer review. It may also help us develop the contacts from other parts of the world whom we would otherwise have not known!!! Hence the need to publish in journals which have a robust peer review process in place, is vital. It is critical to identify the specific journals which are dedicated to the area of our research. The right journal makes a lot of difference.

A good journal may take upto a year to send the final acceptance note and maybe another year to publish too. Some journals on the other hand would be ready to publish your paper 'within 15 days' but of course at a price!! Many a times we take this short-cut for completing the formality of publication before submitting our thesis. This, in the long is not to our advantage as a poor quality journal in our CV, exposes the fact that we did not privilege quality.

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GUIDE'S COLUMN

SAMASHODANA SAMANVAYA

A PhD and M.Phil are among the highest degrees in higher education. The opportunities for research have expanded remarkably today. Till some time back it was largely under the ambit of Govt. Institutions and Universities. Today ample opportunities are being provided even by the private universities. As a result, the scope of research has also expanded and more and more academicians are taking up research, which is a positive development.

There are many reasons for undertaking formal research under Ph.D. and M.Phil. They include interest of researcher, promotion avenues, compulsory for employment and so on. In fact, a lot of research being undertaken mainly for the latter two reasons, has sadly impacted on the quality of research. It is also said that earlier the process of research had become weak due to the limitations in area, subject, quality, efforts or commitment. However one must hasten to add that this does not mean that the entire body of research work lacks quality.

A strong research programme can be built if there is a clear commitment, responsibility, interest and objective for research by the University, Guides and the Research Scholars. The necessary directives and methodology to achieve this are available. This will result in quality research work being undertaken. Therefore it is the responsibility of the University, guide and the researcher to take up the opportunities for research positively and take it forward competently. The synergy created due to the dedication, commitment and hard work of these three parties will, undoubtedly, result in specialised work of high quality. Therefore, in this context, the role of the Private Universities in the increased opportunities for research is most welcome.

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Achievements and Publications

Mr. Gulshan Khalique, Research Scholar in Microbiology and Dr. Srividya Shivakumar, Professor at the Dept. of Microbiology, CPGS, Jain University, have won first prize in the category 'Most Contributing Research Work' for their paper titled 'Potential of Inexpensive Agro-Wastes in Amylase Production by Bacillus Subtilis for Application in Enzymatic Desizing', presented at the NCRAS 2017. They have also received a cash prize of Rs. 5000/- for the same.

Mr. Shiv Kumar Tripathi, Research Scholar in Biotechnology at Jain University was recently awarded the Young Scientist Award at SVBBI 2017 Conference at the Veterinary College, Bangalore for his Ph.D work.

Ms. Suma AP, Research Scholar in Statistics, Jain University, has recently published two papers in Thomson Reuters Indexed Journals. One titled 'Forecasting Anthrax in Livestock in Karnataka State using Remote Sensing and Climatic Variables' and the second paper titled 'Outbreak Prediction of Anthrax in Karnataka using Poisson, Negative-Binomial and Zero-Truncated Models' along with her co-authors Dr. Suresh K P, Dr. Gajendragad M R and Dr. Kavya B A.

Thinklet Congratulates all the Scholars and wishes them success in their future endeavours.

CLIMEX: A Tool to Predict the Future Distribution of Insect Pests

Insects are cold blooded organisms and their activity varies with the climatic conditions of their surrounding area. In recent days Indian farmers were experiencing the invasions of new pests like South American Tomato moth, *Tuta absoluta*., Rugose Spiralling whitefly, *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* etc., which have the potential of causing damage upto 100%. This may happen due to the change in climatic condition which is favoring the establishment of these pests in a particular region. Sudden interventions to a new region can cause severe loss due to unawareness of management tools and tactics.

The possible invasions of new pests to a particular location can be predicted using a software called "CLIMEX"

The possible invasions of new pests to a particular location or expansion of pests distribution, can be predicted using a software called "CLIMEX". CLIMEX is a bio-climatic software which makes use of simulation and modeling techniques to predict the effect of climate change on insect pest distribution. It attempts to mimic the biological mechanisms that limit insect pest geographical distribution and determine their seasonal phenology and relative abundance. By using this software one can predict the potential areas suitable for the pest establishment in the present and future scenario and can start monitoring in those regions. If any regions or country are more prone to a particular pest, scientists can alert the farmers and can initiate management tactics for the control of that invasive pest.

establishment in the present and future scenario and can start monitoring in those regions. If any regions or country are more prone to a particular pest, scientists can alert the farmers and can initiate management tactics for the control of that invasive pest.

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In Pursuit of Data Collection

As anyone in the field of social science research would be able to tell you- conducting a large scale survey is *not* a walk in the park! Though I had, of course, heard this, I chose to go ahead with not only choosing the survey method but to state that I would collect data from 600 employed people in Bangalore. At the outset, I was confident enough that I would be able to collect this data in no time and even began planning on how the analysis should happen.

The first inkling of trouble came when I started receiving rejection after rejection from organizations that I had assumed would definitely give me permission. The reasons for rejection ranged from 'No one has time' to 'None of the employees fit your inclusion criteria.' Then, when I did get permission, there was the fact that I had forgotten-everyone and sundry not only wanted to fill in the questionnaire, they also wanted to give me advice regarding how I should go about the study. Also, since the survey had to be conducted individually, once they realized I was a psychology student, they wanted to tell me all the issues they were currently facing-personal and professional and expected me to solve them by giving 'advice' myself! So what began as something to be completed in six months, took about a year and a half.

Planning and Practice are two keywords that become important here

Based on my experience, I have learnt a few points to be kept in mind while collecting data. The first is don't make assumptions when it comes to the availability of the sample. Secondly, make sure the timeline you set for yourself is actually realistic. Third, have trial runs to seek permission just so you know what techniques are most effective. The last point to remember is to have fun because if this stresses you out so much, there is a chance that you will lose your interest and passion in research itself. So planning and practice are two keywords that become important here. Though it looks like a mammoth task initially, it is definitely worth seeing what the data says at the end of it all- it makes every struggle worthwhile!

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Novel Therapeutic Strategy, “KISS” to Solve Infertility Disorders in Farm Animals

Infertility in farm animals is responsible for the major economic losses. In cattle, nearly 10 to 30 per cent of lactations may be affected by infertility and reproductive disorders. To achieve good fertility both the male and female animals should be well fed and free from disease. There are several reasons for infertility like delayed puberty, anoestrus and repeat breeding. Even though in well-organized dairy farms micronutrient supplementation, routine vaccination and deworming practices and hygiene are well established, infertility problem is common. To overcome these nuisances, hormonal based therapy came into existence. Yet higher reproduction failure rate are associated with these treatments.

Even in well-organized dairy farms, infertility problem is common

Now-a-days, novel therapeutic strategies are coming into existence to increase conception rate and reduced fertility disorders in animals. Kisspeptin, a neuropeptide is the master controller of reproductive axis. Kisspeptin gene expression increases in ovary at the time of ovulation and increase in expression is prohibited by jamming the pre-ovulatory surge of gonadotropins. Kisspeptin is controller of ovulation at the ovarian level. Kisspeptin action resulted in ovulation in more than 80% of kisspeptin-treated anoestrus ewes, whereas less than 20% of controls ovulated. Womersley administration of Kisspeptin is reported to improve gonadotropin secretion, ovarian steroidogenesis, stimulation of LH surge and ovulation. The response to Kisspeptin has been found to be the most effective during late follicular phase. More research on expression profiling of Kisspeptin and its receptor in animal will increase our understanding on neuroendocrine control of reproduction. Kisspeptin can be used as a biomarker for forecasting reproductive disorders related with gestation, parturition and postpartum period. There are lots of gap in knowledge about Kisspeptin - its dose level, mode of action, how to overcome with receptor desensitization, how it acts during pregnancy remain to be answered. With this thorough knowledge, in future Kisspeptin can be used as one of strategies for treatment of infertility.

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Reality Check

The field of research is nothing less than a true and thorough ‘reality check’. It opens up to new vistas of learning and simultaneously crushes one’s ego and brings the individual down to earth. An ideal research culture demands one to ‘unlearn’ several things and to learn afresh as the journey proceeds. The minimalistic knowledge that we come with must be enhanced meticulously, and research guides the student to travel through reading in a systematic way. By the word, systematic, it means that a researcher cannot read just for the sake of reading. Research calls for a focused reading. In order to unearth the latent meanings, it is a must for a researcher to engage with a text critically.

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As the research journey takes forward, the researcher will learn that what he/she knew was only a drop in an infinitely vast ocean of knowledge. If this epiphany occurs to the researcher, then he/she will certainly be able to find solutions to problems or at least would come up with negotiating factors to work around the problems that exist in his/her respective research discipline. Research enhances the horizons of learning and knowledge building, but one must surrender to the superiority of books, for books are the only entities that can make one feel small in the right way.

An eighteenth century English poet, Alexander Pope, has rightly said in his *An Essay on Criticism*;

**A little learning is a dangerous thing;
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;
There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
And drinking largely sobers us again.**

In the above lines, “Pierian spring” is considered to be the fountain of ‘knowledge’, and one must drink its waters to the fullest, or never bother to go near it. A researcher must be an eternal learner, if not, he/she is sure to be doomed in the name of charlatanism.

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Transition through Mentoring – A Precis

"Mentoring is to support and encourage people to manage their own learning in order that they may maximize their potential, develop their skills, improve their performance and become the person they want to be."

Eric Parsloe, the Oxford School of Coaching & Mentoring

All of us pursuing PhD are in this process of mentoring through the guide and student/ scholar relationship, on a journey exploring avenues of academics that will enable us to complete our thesis. It is in this sense that mentoring brings in a transition in the scholar to envision what the guide suggests and implement guidelines in the best possible and acceptable way. Traditionally, mentoring might have been described as the activities conducted by a mentor for another person -the mentee, in order to help that other person to do a job more effectively and/or to progress in their career. A mentor might use a variety of approaches, eg, coaching, training, discussion, counseling, etc. Today, mentoring is a necessary component in higher education and organizations for guiding students and employees in their professional and sometimes personal areas. In recent years, especially in the management and human resources literature, mentoring now refers to the patterned behaviors or process whereby one person acts as mentor to another. In sum, what has been historically an informal, unofficial, voluntary, mutually-agreeable, and self-selected interaction between two people, has now become a program -- an institutionalized strategy. It is a process for the informal transmission of knowledge, social capital and the psychological support received by the mentee relevant to his work, career or professional development. It involves informal communication, usually face to face and during a sustained period of time between a person who is perceived to have greater knowledge, wisdom, experience and the person who is yet to have achieved that.

Formal mentoring can lead to high-quality development and enable an individual to tap his potential to an optimum level. A mentor is a guide who can help the mentee to find the right direction and who can help them to develop solutions to career issues. Mentors rely upon having had similar experiences to gain an empathy with the mentee and an understanding of their issues. A mentor should help the mentee to believe in herself and boost her confidence. A mentor should ask questions and challenge, while providing guidance and encouragement. Mentoring allows the mentee to explore new ideas in confidence. It is a chance to look more closely at yourself, your issues, opportunities and what you want in life. Mentoring is about becoming more self-aware, taking responsibility for your life and directing your life in the direction you decide, rather than leaving it to chance.

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Mentoring includes training, support, encouragement, advice and guidance from people who have both 'done it before' and are usually independent of the mentee's current organization. Mentors and mentees can gain insights into best business practices in other companies. The process allows mentors and mentees to make useful networking connections, and have access to role models thereby learning and achieving in this wonderful journey.

It is time we nurtured our students and young employees to better their best and tap their potential. The transition is possible through mentoring.

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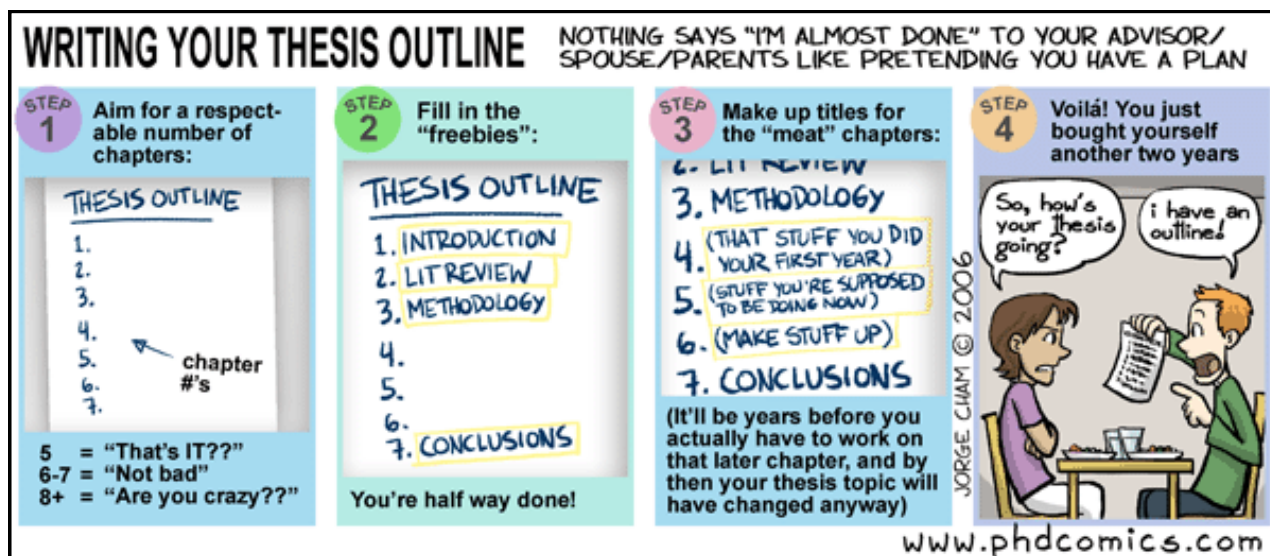
Just as the largest library, badly arranged, is not so useful as a very moderate one that is well arranged, so the greatest amount of knowledge, if not elaborated by our own thoughts, is worth much less than a far smaller volume that has been abundantly and repeatedly thought over.

Arthur Schopenhauer

RESEARCH RETREAT

The Annual Research Retreat has been scheduled for 12th and 13th August 2017. The Retreat exposes researchers to talks by subject experts and provides an opportunity to get expert and peer feedback on your work.

Scholars who have registered their proposals for Ph.D at Jain University will have to present their progress work at the scheduled Research Retreat. All of you would have received an email with the details and instructions to send in your proposal by the 9th of July. A faculty committee for each discipline/ subject will review the proposals and shortlist some for presentation during the Retreat. All scholars will be informed of the same by 20th July. It is requested that the timelines mentioned in the email be strictly adhered to. In case you or your colleagues have not received the relevant email, kindly communicate it to us on researchretreat.cersse@gmail.com.



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