Connecting Thinkers...

Editors' Message

Dear Researchers,

The Rio Olympic Games held in August 2016, has been a topic of debate and discussion in almost all countries of the World. The Indian athletes showcased their extraordinary grit and talent at these games. While two of our sportswomen won medals, some of the others excelled in unfamiliar territory. The victory (and near misses) of the women athletes are being interpreted in various manners such as *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Beti Khelao* (save our daughters, let them get educated, let them play) and that we need to pay more attention to the different kinds of sports in our country and need better conditions and equipment for practice. The Government's initiatives to prepare for the next three Olympics are laudable. We at Thinklet would like to give this a research twist.

While the Olympics is held once in four years, the formal journey of a Ph.D student is also about that long (from admission to final viva). Just as in sports, continuous practice and perfecting of one's technique is required during the in-between period, so does a research scholar keep at her work consistently to achieve results. More often than not, the proper equipment required may not be available, there may be lack of literature sources or perhaps the respondents that you would like to interview, may not be available. These are hardships that every researcher has to face, and in the end come out victorious.

Medals and laurels being the ultimate goal of a sportsperson, are very similar to the completion of thesis and achievement of the title 'Dr.' prefixed to a research scholar's name. However, as the Indian experience at the games has shown us this year, it is the persistence that matters, it is the hardwork that matters and it is the zeal to excel that matters much more than the medals. The fact that the entire nation watched a badminton match or a gymnastics event or a wrestling session is a victory in itself- for the sportspersons as well as the sport. We may have missed some medals this year, but we did manage to win the confidence of the people of the nation, and the athletes did win a billion hearts. The same principle applies to research - while the degree matters, the completion of thesis matters, it is the hardwork and passion that matter more. With determination, the results will show automatically.

With this issue, we would like to welcome the new entrants of this year's M.Phil and Ph.D program into the Jain University research family. We also welcome Ms. Sharon Alex Thoppil a new member of the Thinklet editorial team. Sharon has completed her Masters in Political Science and has joined us at CERSSE as a Research Assistant.

We wish All the Best to all research scholars.

Inside the Issue

GUIDE'S COLUMN

The Research Guide - Student Bond

The person who trains, nurtures and oversees the research work of a student pursuing a degree, normally at Master's or PhD level, is called by various names such as research guide, mentor, advisor, counsellor or dissertation director etc. In addition to equivalent words, in German another word "Doktorvater" is also commonly used, which in English means "Doctoral Father" which alludes to a special relationship that is bonding a research guide with his student. It is a lifelong relationship, not only between the guide and the student; it may extend to both their families. However, often times the relationship may not be quite cordial, if either of the two or both is dissatisfied with each other's performance. (A survey in Germany shows that every fifth doctoral student is unhappy with the guide's role as research advisor).

The gist of the matter is that both the guide and the student work together with mutual trust and confidence. When a student joins his/her guide to pursue research, he/she will have lot of expectation and hope that he /she will be helped to do world class research that could be published in journals of high impact factor, or presented in conferences attended by well known scientists in the concerned research field ending up with the best paper award. In the end the student dreams of making a good career. Such expectations are not always realised or realisable, particularly because the present day scientific research needs expensive, sophisticated instruments and other requirements, and unhindered access to relevant literature, which are not affordable. Such being the situation, the guide has to exercise utmost caution and responsibility in choosing the research problem that is workable under the given conditions. Despite the lack of facilities, if the guide can, with his scholarship and experience evokes sufficient confidence in the student so that he/she can overcome the hardships, it is possible to carry out good research and reach the goal of getting a decent PhD degree, bringing happiness to both.

The gist of the matter is that both the guide and the student work together with mutual trust and confidence

In many cases, students do very well in research and surpass the guide. (Some famous examples: Adolf Baeyer-Emil Fischer, J.J Thomson-Ernest Rutherford, Arnold Sommerfeld-Werner Heisenberg, Alfred Kleiner-Albert Einstein). In such situation, the guide would be truly proud like a good parent and the legacy continues. The relationship so established will last throughout their lifetime. Incidentally the nomenclature "Doktorvater" inspired some people to compose scientific genealogies, such as Chemistry Genealogy, Physics Genealogy, etc. each comprising genealogical trees of generations of doctoral advisors and students. Let the trees of "Doktorväter-Doktorkinder" grow stronger and bigger.

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Dr. G. Nagendrappa, was the most read author from the University, as of December 2015, according to Research Gate website. We congratulate him on this achievement.

Effective Blood Banking - A Dire Necessity

Blood transfusion is a life-saving treatment for patients with massive blood loss and critical illness. Blood banking and transfusion services were made possible by the development of effective blood collection, processing, and storage methods. The most commonly transfused blood products are erythrocytes and platelets. Erythrocyte transfusions are mainly used to treat hemorrhage and improve oxygen delivery to tissues, while platelet transfusions are to prevent hemorrhage in patients with thrombocytopenia or other platelet disorders.

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value
- Albert Einstein

The main challenge is to prolong the shelf life of stored blood and while maintaining its efficacy in terms of post-transfusion effects. Whole blood can be stored up to 35 days while erythrocytes (red blood cells) possess a shelf life of 42 days at 4°C and platelets upto7 days at 22-24°C. During storage, a series of changes occur in the blood cells known as the "Storage Lesion". Oxidative stress has been shown to play a major role in the formation of the storage lesion and the antioxidant defenses of the cells are impaired during prolonged storage.

Therefore our research focus is to improve the efficacy of stored blood and prolong its shelf life. Currently we are studying,
i) the levels of oxidative stress in erythrocytes, platelets and plasma during storage:
ii) the influence of storage on the young and old erythrocytes and;
iii) the role of different antioxidants in storage solutions. These studies would contribute towards the development of efficient blood storage practices.

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Learning a Lesson

The research journey has really been a life learning experience. I have realised that many a time we take up something in life just to keep moving or to be a part of the race for an achievement . But after joining doctorate program not only my thoughts have changed but I am coming out of the self-imposed limitation.

All that the University expects from us is ORIGINALITY of what so ever we do.

The fact that I want to share is that it is not only reaching the destination that makes you but the entire process of journey which decides your worth and speaks about 'who you are'. Since I took admission in the Ph.D program, these thoughts are dwelling in my mind. A recent incident of sharing content from the internet without mentioning the source and having received a series of mail mentioning that it amounts to plagiarism, guides me not to be ignorant and commit blunders intentionally or unintentionally.

My dear friends the whole idea of sharing this experience is to tell you that, when we have entered in an institution for a course, let us be very cautious before every step, so that we may not cut a sorry figure. All that the University expects from us is ORIGINALITY of what so ever we do. I hope my experience of committing an error would also be a learning lesson for all my fellow scholars.

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"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work ".- Thomas Edison

Does Management Education Ensure Responsible Leadership?

It is said that 'Leadership' is a gift of 'Management Education'. These two complement and supplement each other. However, during times of economic crisis or corporate scandals B-Schools are blamed for their inability to produce responsible leaders and the perception that management education ensures responsible leadership is debated. Actually, many take up management education mainly to increase their market value and end up as highly-paid managers. Even though they are equipped with theoretical knowledge and managerial tools, such 'tool-kit managers' of traditional management education with an overdose of theoretical knowledge and very less contact with industry fail to respond to the realities at the scene of action in the real world of business.

Management education can backfire if it promises more than what it can deliver. Hence, B-Schools need to shift their focus from producing 'tool-kit managers' and redefine themselves as institutes of responsible leadership development. They need to come down from their 'ivory towers' and revisit and revitalise the management education system through faculty diversity, curriculum diversity, advanced pedagogy and vibrant industry-academia association aimed at responsible leadership.

Responsible leadership is based on wisdom, vision and integrity

Responsible leadership is based on wisdom, vision and integrity. For this, B-Schools need to be geared to find solutions for societal, environmental and ethical challenges to make management learning 'student-centric' and 'context-specific' than just a status-booster degree. They need to restore the trust on management education for leadership, economic development and sustainability and make the dream of passionate and visibly responsible leadership to come true.

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My Journey from Early-stage Researcher to Experienced Researcher

My research career started when I finished my masters degree in organic chemistry. After that I got a chance to do research in National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune as a research assistant, to work on a interesting project which gave me an experience of practical knowledge of chemistry and helped build my confidence as an early stage researcher.

Then, I got an opportunity to work abroad as a research scientist to carry out a research project at Institute of Organic and Biochemistry ASCR Prague, Czech Republic (Europe). There I stayed for four years to accomplish the work. During these years, I spent most of my time carrying out research and discussions with my colleagues about various aspects of research, so that I would be able to develop analytical thinking, project developing, experimental analysis, problem solving and various other aspects which are key points for any researcher.

At CNMS, I found excellent research areas with good working environment.

When I got a chance to enter CNMS, Jain University for PhD study, I found excellent research areas with good working environment. Initially, I faced frustration just as any other researcher would, but was able to overcome these stressful difficulties with the help of guidance given by my supervisor Dr. Rangappa S Keri. One thing I would like to share with all of you is that I have been selected for the CIMO Fellowship as visiting doctoral researcher at University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio. I will be working in Finland for nine months on a project (synthesis of novel drugs for liver cancer). I hope that this will help me to pursue my research at a much faster rate and I hope that it results in success.

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FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS' DESK

Research Challenges

A research journey is a challenge because we are searching for a lot of information. Research scholars must be prepared to overcome the various challenges of their research journey. While doing a literature review, a research scholar has to not only read a lot of papers, articles and books, but should also have the ability to extract only related information for their work. It can very well be that you have read a lot of papers but in the end, you come up with just a few lines related to your topic.

For some researchers, data collection might seem as the most difficult challenge. It starts with documenting the tools required for data collection. Most of the time, the companies/ respondents who are interviewed, do not share certain documents which may be required for research. Secondly, non-cooperation from respondents or experts may be challenging. The suggestions of experts play a key role in any field and getting that, in practicality, may add to the data collection woes. The raw data then has to be revised, cleaned and sometimes collected again to fill the gaps for your research.

A research scholar should have the ability to extract only related information for their work

The research problem can have a very wide scope with many variables and parameters. It would be an impossible task to work with all that is listed. Therefore it is important to select the parameters which are most essential for your study. At last, conducting research ethically, within a predefined budget and limited time, is a real challenge for any research scholar.

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Research and Retraining the Core of Effective Teaching

After completing successful years of impacting knowledge as a professional teacher, my dream has been of seeking knowledge more passionately in my domain. To achieve more of these goals, I opted for a research program in Jain University in August 2013.

After months of intensive inquiries and search on the internet, the question topmost in my mind was 'where else in the whole world outside Africa should I undertake the venture of acquiring more knowledge and pedagogy to enhance my techniques of teaching Computer Science more effectively?' Without doubt, I was able to locate exactly where my dreams, desire and area of focus lay. It was in the IT hub of India, Bangalore City, where Jain University is located. The environment and fast growth of IT establishments has built a team of strong faculty in the university, comprising of well known global experts who have reshaped me as an effective research scholar.

Jain University has enriched me with the ability and confidence of being a future-able researcher.

I will not fail to thank, the guidance of my guide who has given me responsibility and freedom to make me independent, focused and confident to pursue my dreams and desire in the research venture. Within this period a series of international publications has been published with high rate of commendations and evaluations from the publishers. Research proposal has been issued to my government in Nigeria for consideration; the research journey for me is just about to begin. Jain University has enriched me with the ability and confidence of being a future-able researcher.

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In Conversation with the Experts: Dr. S. Sadagopan

With this issue we are starting a monthly interview with an eminent researcher. We are privileged to carry an interview with Dr. S. Sadagopan in the first issue. Dr. Sadagopan is currently the Director (President) of IIIT Bangalore. He obtained his PhD degree from Purdue University, USA. As the first Director of IIIT Bangalore he was involved in envisioning, planning and executing the growth of the institute that is counted as one of the premier institute in India. . He is a Fellow of IET (UK), Computer Society of India and Institution of Engineers. He is a Senior Member of the IEEE, ACM and AIS. Professor Sadagopan's research work has appeared in several international journals including IEEE Transactions, European Journal of Operational Research, Journal of Optimization Theory and Application, Naval Research Logistics, Simulation & Decision Support Systems. Jain University is priviledged to have Dr. Sadagopan as a member of its Board of Management.

When you began your research journey, what triggered your interest in Research?

I took up a job soon after my B.E. (Hons) at Engineers India Limited, New Delhi in their Systems Engineering & Computer Services Department (1973-76). I was learning a lot; in fact learning every day for the three years. However I was learning more of "how" and not much of "why". That is when I realized that my learning has to be far more intense and decided to pursue PhD.

A few reflections about your first research project?

My first Research Project (P-HEART) during my PhD days was the application of statistical prediction for potential heart attack by Air force pilots during their F-16 flights, using lots of data gathered systematically for years by the famous Framingham Study. It was published in the Simulation Journal (July 1980). I had significant learning; accessing public data with due care, working in large research groups, systematic application of knowledge across multiple disciplines and rigor of problem solving in academics (as contrasted with "quick & dirty" solution in an industrial context)

What were the challenges you faced when you were a research scholar pursuing PhD?

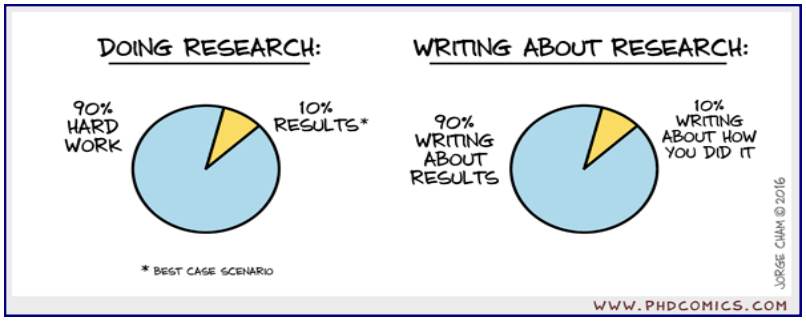
Living in USA for a middle class Indian was a very different experience in those days with very limited connectivity. Professionally, the competition that one comes across in a major US University was far more intense, though I was the first ranker in Madras University in 1973; it was "global" Vs "local" competition! Plus the challenges of using computers in 70s!!

How has the use of technology and ease of availability of resources impacted research?

Technology has significantly impacted research production and dissemination. Access to data and computing, makes the process more efficient and less time consuming. Documenting research (writing up, formatting tables and graphs, analysis), communicating research output and peer interaction (literature survey, review, revision) have improved a lot. Access to journals and conference proceedings after the Year 2000 - when major agencies like IEEE moved to electronic publishing - has dramatically changed the research landscape and "leveled the field" for researchers in countries like India, with limited investments in scientific research.

What would be your advice to the young researchers of today?

Count your blessings; limited access (due to minuscule research budgets of Indian Universities), delayed access (often by months, due to postal delays) and painful writing tools (IBM Selectric Typewriters), that we all used in our first decade of research are things of the past. Researchers in India have as much access to current literature as any other student in the planet. India is far more accepted today in scientific community than in our times. The researcher in India today can be more productive, has better chance of making high impact and enjoys more visibility. All this must be used to pursue research more vigorously, use more rigorous methods and take up far more challenging research topics. In short you should shoot for the Moon, if not Mars!



SUMMER SCHOOL ON ANALYZING QUANTITATIVE DATA

The Annual Summer School on Analyzing Quantitative Data in Political Science was held from 11th to 22nd July 2016 at the Jain University Global Campus at Kanakpura. The summer school is jointly organized by Lokniti- Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi and Jain University annually. This year there were 25 participants from across India with varied academic backgrounds in social sciences. During the 12 day workshop the participants were exposed to lecture sessions highlighting the methodology of conducting quantitative research and practical sessions of data analysis using the SPSS software. The uniqueness of this workshop lies in helping participants to interpret data and come up with broader academic arguments from that, rather than only learning the techniques of data analysis. The key resource persons for the workshop this year included Prof. Sanjay Kumar (CSDS, Delhi), Prof. Suhas Palshikar (Savitribai Phule Pune University), Prof. Pradeep Chhibber (University of California, Berkeley), Prof. Irfan Nooruddin (Georgetown University, Washington D.C.), Prof. Siddharth Swaminathan (Azim Premji University, Bengaluru), Dr. Divya Vaid (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi), Ms. Jyoti Mishra (Lokniti-CSDS, Delhi), Prof. Sandeep Shastri and Dr. Reetika Syal (Jain University, Bengaluru). Summer School also invites some of the previous year's participants as returnees to provide further training in teaching data analysis and this year's returnee participant was Mr. Shashwat Dhar (Batch of 2015).

A reunion workshop was also organized this year to commemorate the 10th year of the inception of Summer School. On 9th and 10th July, around 15 participants who attended summer school in the previous years were invited to present their work in which they had made use of the techniques taught during the workshop. The papers ranged from participants' own PhD work to articles they had written and published to even book projects which they were working on using quantitative data. One of the sessions during the reunion workshop was a panel discussion on the topic 'Researching Indian Politics Using Quantitative Methods'. Three of Lokniti's network members, who have also been a part of the Summer School since its inception, Kailash K.K (Hyderabad Central University), Dr. Rajeshwari Deshpande (Savitribai Phule Pune University), and Dr. Divya Vaid (Jawaharlal Nehru University) shared their experiences of how the workshop had helped them to work with data, what were the opportunities and challenges of using quantitative data in research etc. One of the most important points of discussion was having an understanding of theory while researching with data, and a caution against using data without proper interpretation and theoretical implications—'Political Science sans data; Data sans Political Science'.

Resource Persons and Participants at the 10th Summer School on Analysing Data in Indian Politics

ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE SHOULD BE SENT BY
September 20, 2016 WITH **NOT** MORE THAN **250** WORDS
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, E-MAIL ADDRESS AND YOUR KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN

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