

A Study on Awareness about The Importance of Research Among CTTE Students

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Abstract

This study examines the awareness of research importance among students of Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth (CTTE) College for Women. Research plays a critical role in academic growth, innovation, and career development. However, many students struggle with participation due to time constraints, lack of guidance, and limited awareness. This study assesses student engagement, barriers to research involvement, and potential strategies to foster a stronger research culture. The findings highlight key areas for intervention and provide recommendations for integrating research into the academic framework.

Keywords: Research Awareness, Student Participation, Academic Development, Higher Education, CTTE College

Introduction

Research is an organized way of thinking which aims to uncover the truth behind the unknown answer, determination and mechanics of an established theory or the solution to a problem. It is a cornerstone of academic progress and an essential tool for students in higher education. However, awareness and participation in research activities vary significantly among students. This study explores the level of research awareness among CTTE students and the factors influencing their engagement.

It instigates critical thinking, analysis, and problem-solving skills, which are crucial in all types of professions one can dare to venture in any career. Engaging in research activities enhances students' ability to make data-driven decisions, increases their intellectual curiosity, and prepares them for higher studies and professional careers.

Despite these benefits, research participation among undergraduate students remains low. Many students lack awareness of available research opportunities or perceive research as too complex. Others struggle with balancing academic coursework and research activities. This study aims to assess the extent of research awareness among CTTE students and provide insights into strategies that can be implemented to improve student engagement in research. Research is a systematized enquiry of finding out new truths about something existing ones and solving problems. It is a cornerstone of academic progress and an essential tool for students in higher education. However, awareness and participation in research activities vary significantly among students. This study explores the level of research awareness among CTTE students and the factors influencing their engagement.

Objectives of the Study

- To assess the level of awareness among CTTE students about the importance of research.
- To analyse the frequency of the students' participation in research.
- To investigate the reasons why CTTE students do not engage in research activities.
- To find out what would motivate CTTE students to do research.
- To recommend ways to increase CTTE students' participation in research activities.

Need for the Study

In an era where knowledge creation and technological advancements are vital, research plays a pivotal role in shaping academic and professional success. However, many students at CTTE College lack awareness of the significance of research. This study seeks to bridge this gap by assessing their understanding and engagement with research activities, highlighting the need for institutional initiatives that promote research culture.

Limitations of the Study

This study has certain limitations that must be acknowledged. The sample size of 302 students may not fully represent the entire student population of CTTE College, limiting the generalizability of the findings. The research was conducted within a short timeframe, which may have restricted deeper analysis and follow-up studies. Additionally, the study focused only on CTTE College, and its findings may not apply to students in other institutions. Respondent bias is another limitation, as some students may have provided socially desirable

responses rather than their true opinions. Moreover, the availability of secondary data related to research awareness at CTTE College was limited, which may have impacted the depth of the study.

Literature Review

Several studies have emphasized the importance of research in higher education. Wahid et al. (2023) explored how student-centered learning can enhance research skills, concluding that active engagement in research improves analytical abilities. Khan (2023) examined the role of academic research in India's higher education system, highlighting its impact on career growth and faculty satisfaction. These studies align with the current research, emphasizing the necessity of fostering research culture in academic institutions.

Research Methodology

This research uses descriptive research design to investigate CTTE students' awareness and involvement in research programmes. The sample size consists of **302 students** selected through **convenience sampling** from various departments. Primary data was collected using **structured questionnaire** with multiple-choice and open-ended questions. Secondary data was obtained from CTTE College's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), the college website, and relevant academic sources. Statistical tools such as **simple percentage analysis and chi-square tests** were used for data interpretation.

About CTTE College

Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth College for Women, established in 1985, is a premier self-financing institution dedicated to women's education. It provides various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes under multiple faculties. The college is committed to empowering women through education, ethics, and economic development. CTTE College houses an active Research Cell that facilitates student and faculty research, organizes conferences, and supports scholarly publications. The institution has hosted numerous national and international conferences, fostering a vibrant academic community.

CTTE College provides a holistic learning environment with well-equipped laboratories, a digital library, and modern infrastructure to support academic excellence. The institution actively collaborates with industry experts and research organizations to ensure that students are exposed to the practical applications of their studies. The faculty comprises experienced

academicians and researchers who mentor students in various research projects and publications.

Findings

1. 93.2% of respondents are undergraduate students, while only 7.6% are postgraduate.
2. 40% of respondents belong to the commerce department, followed by arts (28.4%) and science (25.2%).
3. 50.7% of students are somewhat familiar with research, while 22.8% are not very familiar.
4. 82.1% of students are aware of the research cell, but 17.9% remain unaware.
5. 75.8% of students know about research opportunities, while 24.2% are uninformed.
6. Only 36.1% of students have participated in research projects.
7. 64.3% of students participate in research activities occasionally, while 25.2% never engage.
8. 35.8% of students attend research events occasionally, while 25.2% never participate.
9. The primary barrier to research participation is lack of time (35.1%), followed by lack of awareness (22.8%).
10. 93.4% of students recognize the importance of research in academics and career development.
11. Class announcements (37.1%) and emails (30.5%) are the most preferred modes of research communication.
12. Critical thinking (43.7%) and practical experience (24.5%) are the top benefits of research participation.
13. 35.1% of students believe research contributes to economic growth, while 30.5% highlight its role in education.
14. Group projects (31.8%) and workshops (28.5%) are the most common research activities among students.
15. 34.4% of students are neutral about research engagement, while 32.8% are somewhat interested.
16. Awards and certificates (45.5%) are the top motivational factors for future research involvement.

Chi-Square Analysis

A chi-square test was performed to examine relationships between variables such as education level and research participation. The results indicated **no significance of**

association between the education level (UG/PG) and participation in research activities ($\chi^2 = 1.0792$, $p > 0.05$). However, the analysis revealed **a significant difference in research interest levels between UG and PG students** ($\chi^2 = 13.56$, $p < 0.05$), suggesting that postgraduate students demonstrate higher interest in research engagement.

Recommendations

- Conduct more research workshops and interactive seminars to improve awareness.
- Strengthen the promotion of the research cell and its available opportunities.
- Provide flexible, short-term research projects for students with time constraints.
- Integrate more practical, career-oriented research activities into the curriculum.
- Use mobile apps, social media, and online platforms for research communication.
- Offer continuous mentorship and guidance to students throughout the research process.
- Establish peer support groups for students to collaborate and share research experiences.
- Organize annual research fairs to showcase student research and increase engagement.

Conclusion

This research emphasizes the significance of research knowledge in CTTE students and the challenges they face in participating in research activities. While students recognize the value of research, barriers such as lack of awareness, time constraints, and limited mentorship hinder engagement. Institutions play a crucial role in fostering research participation through structured interventions like workshops, faculty mentorship, and curriculum integration. Enhancing research accessibility and encouraging participation in academic conferences can further improve student engagement. Strengthening the research culture at CTTE College will equip students with essential skills for academic and professional success, ultimately contributing to a more research-oriented academic environment.

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