



### Gender Wise Analysis of the Attitude of University Scholars towards Research

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**Abstract:** The major purpose of the comparative analysis was to investigate gender wise attitude of university scholars towards research. The core objectives of the research: finding of university scholars behavior regarding research and to scrutinize the attitude of male and female university scholars towards research. The design of the research was cross sectional survey. The population of the research study was all the MPhil scholars of the Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan therefore three faculties' that is biological sciences, Physical sciences and Social sciences were randomly selected. From these three faculties' the researcher selected 156 men and women MPhil scholars by using online sample calculator. The research tool was developed by the researcher under the supervision and proper direction of research supervisor. The validity and reliability of the research questionnaire was established and the Cronbach's alpha shows the high value (0.949). The research tool was consisted of different statements about attitude of university scholars towards research. The collected data was analyzed and interpreted by using SPSS Version 22. An independent sample t-test was used in order to analyze the data. The findings of the study showed that 65.3 % of the MPhil scholars have positive attitude regarding research. On the other hand it was found an insignificant dissimilarity among the attitude of men and women university scholars toward research. It was concluded that scholars have positive attitude towards exploration. It was recommended that Universities, affiliated colleges and Higher Education Commission need to organize seminars, workshops, conferences to promote research culture among the young generation. Furthermore, it was recommended that HEC should announce digital badges about the methodology of research in order to develop the research culture and motivate the scholars for research.

**Keywords:** Research, Attitude, Scholars, Young generation, Research culture

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#### 1. Introduction

Research is the formal and systematic process of application of scientific method for the solution of educational problem (Mills & Gay, 2016). Research plays a crucial role in the life of every living and non-living thing because it is the need of our life. Through research investigation new innovations are doing and therefore it was stated that this is the only way to develop new ideas (Gross, 2001). While attitude is the approach or beliefs towards any subject which may be positive or negative. The emotions, beliefs, feelings, ideas and behavior of an individual are included in the attitude. Therefore, attitude towards research means the spirits and manners of an individual towards

research (Zan & Di Martino, 2007). In every field of life attitude is the important and motivating factor while in research attitude is the primary and basic element. The university scholars' attitude towards research is determined by the relationship between the scholar and the scholars' research supervisor. Hussain, Akhter, Abid and Sabir (2016) stated that every creature of this universe gets benefit from research. These benefits may be directly or indirectly at various fields and level of life. It is necessary to develop the attitude towards research, we should have to train and develop the background ideas and knowledge of the student about research in every academic discipline (Belgrave & Jules, 2015). A large number of researches were conducted on attitude towards research and most of them were found negative attitude regarding research. A study was conducted in which they found that most of the students were hesitated and they were considered that the research work is a hard and tough work for the students (Adams & Holcomb, 1986). Additionally, they stated that these students were not aware about the main concepts, importance and benefits of research in their daily lives. If we want to develop the research attitude positive and to promote the research culture and to create good quality and fruitful experienced researcher in our institutes for the long time we must improve, motivate and develop our research culture at undergraduate level recommended by Scaria (2004). Scaria suggested that more researches would be conducted to find out the graduate university scholars attitude towards research. Therefore, the researcher was inspired for gender wise analysis of the attitude of university scholars towards research.

## 1.2 Conceptual Framework of the Study

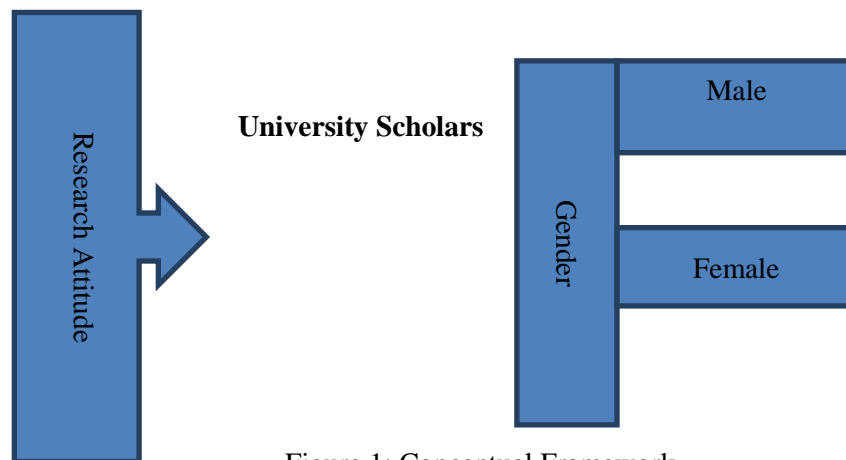


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

The above given diagram described the conceptual framework of the research study in which the researcher were trying to find out the research attitude of university scholars and comparison among male and female.

## 1.3 Research Objectives

1. To find out the attitude of university scholars towards research
2. To find out the comparison among both genders scholars attitude towards research
- 3.

## 1.4 Research Hypothesis/ Research Questions

1. What is the attitude of university scholars towards research?

**H<sub>01</sub>:** Between male and female research scholars at university level, there are no appreciable differences.

## 1.5 Theoretical Framework

This research study were discussed the scholars attitude towards research which is previously explained by the expectancy value theory. The expectancy value theory describes the relationship of student expectancy about a task

and the values or in other words we can say that expectancy and value are dependent on each other. Here this study is related to this theory because when the students motivated for research work then they were taking active part in research otherwise they were feeling bad and bored (Wigfield, Tonks, & Klauda, 2016).

### **1.6 Problem Statement**

It was stated that attitude is the group of opinion of which an individual have (Brown, Eller, Leeds, & Stace, 2007). In education, the term attitude is the common factor but in research attitude is the most particular and basic factor. Generally, the current research study look for the researcher to deliver visions into the aspects that may uphold or constrain research among university scholars, along with classifying prospective resolutions to develop university scholars' attitude towards research. According to Hussain, Akhter, Abid and Sabir, (2016) now a days the world look like a global village and the research is used in every field of life so, that's why research is the most important and unavoidable part of every human action but now a days there are many reasons which can renovate the attitude of a researcher in which the busy schedule, course load, digital and social media, stress, anxiety and lack of personal interest. Therefore, the current research study was gender wise analysis of the attitude of university scholars towards research.

### **1.7 Significance of the study**

This research study entitled Gender wise analysis of the attitude of university scholars towards research were significant and important for the under graduate, graduate and post graduate scholars of the university in order to provide insight to all of these regarding research usefulness, love, fear and difficulties for research, also importance and benefits for research. Also this study was significant for the lecturers, supervisors and policy makers to develop research attitude among the university researchers. Furthermore, this research might be advanced attitude of university scholars about research which can be useful in their specialized improvement. Generally, this research study has momentous implications for refining the worth of graduate scholars learning, growing number of graduate learners who involve in research and updating policy assessments related to university scholars learning and exploration.

## **2. Literature Review**

A study was conducted on attitude of students towards research in which they found that the relationship of scholar and mentor provide mentorship and also other supporting staff have the major role of promoting the research attitude of a researcher (Xu, Liang, Ye, & Xu, 2023). Those scholar who are guided and motivated in the right track were have positive attitude while those who have not attend proper guidance was found low attitude and self-efficacy regarding research it was also revealed by the research that the research environment, resources, facilities and culture of the university depend on the attitude of the scholar (Kuldip, Sarabjeet, & Nilesh, 2016). As (Patak & Naim, 2012) mentioned that those scholars who were not experts in English language and have English was there second language have negative attitude towards research because they were not aware about the rules and regulations of research i.e. selection of researchable problem, citation of a paper. So, these students have not positive attitude towards research. Past research proficiencies was also another factor which influence on the research attitude of individual. Therefore a research was done whose found and concluded that those scholars which have previous practices of research were positive attitude while those who have no past experiences were negative attitude. Therefore they recommended that at college level and BS level the students must engage in research activities and practices in order to train and motivate the students for upper level researches (Rauschenberger, Adams, & Kennedy, 2017).

There are also some other factors which influenced by the research in which one of them is the enthusiasm and confidence level of the scholar (O'Sullivan et al., 2019). Another factor influenced on research attitude is the dealings of the researcher with their peers. It may be positive or negative (Hulteen et al., 2017). Those research productivity is also depend on the positive attitude of researcher about research (Lee & Fields, 2020). The research supervisors also claimed that the dissertation of thesis which can be in good or in bad condition also depend on the positive attitude of the graduate researcher with the research (Fuhr, 2015). Additional, the success of the researcher in future also depend on the research attitude of the researcher (Hornby & Blackwell, 2018). Researchers are

suggested that in the research institutes i.e. in colleges and universities should have to do investment on the research that is to arrange workshops and mentorship programs in order to promote the research culture and to do good quality researches in future and also to produce quality researchers in the mankind (Henshall et al., 2021). In addition to the previous research, for the improvement of the abilities, self-confidence and self-efficacy of the scholars towards research attitude would be developed and polished in the workshops and seminars that are arranged by universities (Newman, Obschonka, Schwarz, Cohen, & Nielsen, 2019). Another researcher was stated that attitude of the scholars of university were enhanced by the encouragement and diversification and research association of the researcher (Gupta et al., 2019). The mentorship programs and workshops arrangement for graduate scholars were enhancing and promoting the research culture and attitude of the students. These all were creating and boosting the research attitude of individual with self-confidence (Jones & Smith, 2022).

If there was a strong relationship among the individual mean the researcher and their supporting material, context and with their institute, then there will be the researchers have positive attitude and also they were participating actively in the research process and that was the theme and conclusion of this research study (Jeffery-Smith et al., 2018). Between male and female post graduate scholars a research study was conducted in which they found that as compared to female scholars the male scholars have positive attitude towards research (Al-Saggaf, Burmeister, & Weckert, 2015). A study was conducted in which the researcher were suggested that for research process to be done clearly and fruitful, the research environment should be conducive (Mark & Kelch, 2001). A study was conducted in the social work department students in which they were concluded that at undergraduate level the students show negative attitude towards research. Also the lecturers of social work department accepted that greater number of social work student have not command over the research (Rubin & Babbie, 2007). Another study was conducted whose results and findings shows that students of research were not taking interest in the research course classes (Wainstock, 1994). Furthermore, it was also stated that if the researcher is not aware about the importance and findings of research and also the practical application of the research findings, he or she was taking interest in the research (Wells, 2006).

### 3. Methodology

The method adopted for this research study was quantitative research because in quantitative study we are collecting, analyzing, interpreting the numerical data and generalize our results on the basis of that numerical data on a broad and large population. The design adopted for this research study was cross sectional survey design. The research process in which data were collected and analyze numerically is called quantitative research. It is the opposite of qualitative research in which data were analyzed in sentence form (Creswell, 2014).

#### 3.1 Procedure of the Study

All the university MPhil scholars of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan as a population of the study were selected for this purpose. From the selected population one hundred and fifty six MPhil scholars were selected by stratified random sampling techniques as a sample of the study. The tool (questionnaire) was developed by the researcher under the supervision and proper direction of research supervisor. For the checking of validity and reliability of the research questionnaire the researcher was find out the Cronbach's alpha whose value was (0.949) which shows the high value. The research tool was consisted of different statements about attitude of university scholars towards research. The data were collected through online Google form questionnaire. According to the objectives of the study, the researcher was analyzed and interprets the data by using SPSS 22 Version. Independent sample *t*-test was used in order to analyze the data. Also the mean values were found.

### 4. Data Analysis

Table 1: Demographic information

Gender	No of Scholars of social sciences departments	No Scholars of physical sciences departments	No of Scholars of biological sciences departments
Male	29	24	35
Female	25	27	20

Total	54	51	55
Total number of respondents = 160			

The above table 1 shows the number of respondents of different disciplines. There are total one hundred and sixty scholars which consist of fifty four scholars from social science discipline, fifty one from physical science discipline and fifty five from biological science discipline. The Scholars who have scored on attitude towards research scale below the median that sixty nine were considered as negative attitude while those who have scored exactly at the median or gone beyond the median were considered positive attitude.

Table 2: Scholars 'attitude about Research

Items	Number of Scholars	Percentage
holarers who have positive attitude towards research.	104	.38
Scholars who have negative attitude towards research	56	.61
Total Scholars	160	0

The above table 2 represents the attitude of university scholars towards research. There we have 104 scholars positive attitude towards research which was 65.38% of the total sample and they were considered that research is helpful, beneficial, important and useful for their present and future life. While 56 scholars have negative attitude towards research which shows 34.61% of the total sample were showing fear and difficulties in research. So, according the result of table 2 most of the MPhil scholars of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan have positive attitude about research.

H<sub>0</sub>1. Between male and female research scholars at university level, there are no appreciable differences.

Table 3: Gender wise analysis of university scholars' attitude towards research

x	Number of scholars (N)	Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (SD)	Degree of freedom (Df)	T	Mean Difference (MD)	Level of Significant (P)
Scholars Male attitude towards research	88	2.12	.891	4	1.334	180	.206
Female	72	1.69	.789				

\*not Significant at 0.05 t table value 1.645

Table 3 shows the gender wise analysis of university scholars' attitude towards research. It shows that 88 male and 72 female participants take part in the responses of this research. The mean value of male was 2.12 and for female the mean value was 1.69 while the value of standard deviation for male was 0.891 and for female was 0.789 with t-value 1.334. The value of significance is greater than 0.05 i.e. (0.206>0.05) which meant an insignificant variation bring into being concerning men and women university scholars approach regarding enquiries so due to that reason the null hypothesis was accepted. So there was same attitude of males and female university scholars.

#### 4.1 Findings

It was found from the data analysis that the attitude of university scholars towards research were has 104 scholars positive attitude towards research which was 65.38% of the total sample and they were considered that research is helpful, beneficial, important and useful for their present and future life. It was also found that 56 scholars have



negative attitude towards research which shows 34.61% of the total sample were showing fear and difficulties in research. So, therefore there was significant difference in the university scholars' approach to exploration and maximum number MPhil scholars of Abdul Wali Khan University Garden campus Mardan have positive attitude about research. It was also found that 88 male and 72 female participants take part in the responses of this research. The mean value of male was 2.12 and for female the mean value was 1.69 while the value of standard deviation for male was 0.891 and for female was 0.789 with t-value 1.334. The value of significance is greater than 0.05 i.e. (0.206>0.05) which meant an insignificant dissimilarity originate among men with women university scholars outlook regarding exploration. So there was same attitude of male and female university scholars found.

## 5. Conclusion

Keeping in mind the results of the research a conclusion was drawn that greater number of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan Master of Philosophy Scholars' was positive attitude about research. Another conclusion was also drawn from the findings of this research that no considerable variance found in the attitudes towards research between boys and girls University scholars. These conclusions recommend a smooth of homogeneousness that by which method sexes identify and participate in inquiries inside the framework of the study. The deficiency of a momentous discrepancy highpoints the status of bearing in mind a whole attitude to accepting a positive research culture, regardless of gender.

### 5.1 Recommendations

It was recommended that universities and affiliated colleges and also higher education commission need to organize seminars, workshops, conferences and also announce digital badges about the methods and importance of research in order to develop the research culture and motivate the scholars for research.

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