

## A STUDY ON THE ATTITUDE OF PH.D SCHOLARS TOWARDS THEIR DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

### Article Particulars

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### Mrs. T. JOHNCY DEVANESAM

*Ph.D. Research Scholar**Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, India*

### Abstract

*The present study has been conducted among 48 PhD scholars belong to various research centres in all over Tamil Nadu to find out the attitude towards their research work. The researcher used a self constructed tool for this research. The data collected was analysed and interpreted to draw inference using appropriate statistical methods like mean, standard deviation, t-test, and F-test. The result shows that there is no significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to their Sex, Research centre, Mode of registration, Year of registration, Sex of the Supervisor, Marital status and the scholars who have children. Also it is revealed that there is no significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to their Educational Qualification, teaching experience, Subject in which they do their research, type of institution and age. It is significant that most of the research scholars answered the questionnaire in the same manner and they all reported that they had faced many problems in doing their research work and also it is very difficult to look after the duties in their institution and research at the same time, every time they have the fear about viva-voce and they have suggested that doing Ph.D. programme as full time is advisable.*

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### Introduction

Attitudes give direction to one's behaviour. A positive favorable attitude makes the work not only easier but also more satisfying and professionally rewarding. A negative unfavorable attitude makes the work harder, more tedious and unpleasant. Doctoral study is viewed as a time to learn scientific principles and methods for conducting research which improves the quality of life, instruction, students' achievement, teacher's competence, satisfies man's needs, has deep-seated psychological aspects, responds to the economic recovery and austerity measure of the country. Also the research trains graduates to become responsive to the economic development of the country and to compete globally.

Attitude puts the graduate in a unique position to advance the knowledge of the discipline through basic and/or clinical research and to prepare the next generation of

professionals. Undertaking a PhD in any subject in any part of the world is to walk down a path like no other. It's thrilling and terrifying in equal measure, and at the end of it, the research scholars will be the world's foremost expert in the research which they have chosen to spend 3-5 years of their life on.

### **Need and Significance of the Study**

For many people, that path to Ph.D. is often walking alone in a desert. Although it is different for every individual, composing a doctoral thesis is often extremely stressful but it should be done with prudence. Most of PhD students are having the feelings of being under constant strain, unhappiness and depression, frustration, sleeping problems due to worries, inability to overcome difficulties and not being able to enjoy day-to-day activities, etc. The primary predictor of mental health issues was work-family conflict, where the demands of the research interfere with their family or personal life. Common factors here include work overload, unrealistic demands, unsupportive supervisors or interpersonal problems at work. Hence this research paper aims to find out the attitude of the PhD scholars regarding their research work and to motivate them to carry on the research with peace of mind.

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To find out the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work.
2. To find out whether there is any significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to their Sex, Research centre, Mode of registration, Year of registration, Sex of the Supervisor, Marital status and the scholars who have children.
3. To find out whether there is any significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to the Educational Qualification, teaching experience, Subject in which they do their research, type of institution and age.

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

1. There is no significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to their Sex, Research centre, Mode of registration, Year of registration, Sex of the Supervisor, Marital status and the scholars who have children.
2. There is no significant difference the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to their Educational Qualification, teaching experience, Subject in which they do their research, type of institution and age.

## Review of Related Literature

Kittle Autry and Wojcik examined nearly 400 dissertations submitted by NC State doctoral students in 2014 and 2015 and found that the majority-65 percent-were research article dissertations. The dissertations also were analyzed for each of NC State's 10 colleges, and among those, only two colleges had no research article dissertations. A research article dissertation-one of four distinct styles of dissertations-is a record of published research articles, chronicling different facets of the student's research. Based on the report findings, Kittle Autry says the research article dissertation is a trend at STEM universities. "This is a huge change since 2002. It reflects the increased professionalism of Ph.D.s,"

## Methodology

Survey method has been used for this study.

## Sampling Technique and Sample Size

Random sampling technique has been used for this study and the sample size was 48. Data has been collected from PhD scholars belong to various research centers in all over Tamil Nadu.

## Tool Used for the Study

The researcher used a self constructed tool for this research. The tool consists of 23 statements for which the respondent has to answer Yes/No regarding the attitude of PhD scholars towards their doctoral programme.

## Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1 table showing the results of the attitude of research scholars towards their research work with respect to Sex, Research centre, Mode of registration, Year of registration, Sex of the Supervisor, Marital status and the scholars who have children.

S.No	Variables	Category	N	Mean	S.D	t	p-value
1	Sex	Male	11	14.63	1.68	0.49	0.62
		Female	37	14.18	2.86		
2	Research centre	College	32	14.09	3.01	0.89	0.38
		University	16	14.68	1.62		
3	Mode of registration	Part time	34	14.23	2.88	0.22	0.82
		Fulltime	14	14.42	1.98		
4	Year of registration	Before 2013	11	14.63	2.20	0.49	0.62
		After 2013	37	14.18	2.76		
5	Sex of the Supervisor	Male	26	14.34	3.11	0.16	0.87
		Female	22	14.22	1.99		
6	Marital status	Married	39	14.28	2.64	0.52	0.96
		Unmarried	9	14.33	2.50		
7	Having Children	Yes	37	14.16	2.88	0.84	0.40
		No	11	14.72	1.55		

Since the p value 0.001 is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis is accepted, hence there is no significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to their Sex, Research centre, Mode of registration, Year of registration, Sex of the Supervisor, Marital status and the scholars who have children.

Table 2 F tables showing the significant difference between the attitude of research scholars towards PhD programme with respect to their Educational Qualification, teaching experience, Subject in which they do their research, type of institution and age.

Variables	Sources of variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Educational Qualification	Between Groups	8.439	3	2.813	.390	.761
	Within Groups	317.47	44	7.215		
	Total	352.917	47			
Teaching experience	Between Groups	28.430	3	9.477	1.402	0.255
	Within Groups	297.486	44	6.761		
	Total	352.917	47			
Subjects in which they do their research	Between Groups	1.467	2	.733	.102	.903
	Within Groups	324.450	45	7.210		
	Total	325.917	47			
Type of Institution	Between Groups	16.055	2	8.027	1.166	0.321
	Within Groups	309.862	45	6.886		
	Total	325.917	47			
Age	Between Groups	6.043	2	3.021	0.425	0.656
	Within Groups	319.874	45	7.108		
	Total	352.917	47			

The sig-value in the table is greater than 0.05 , the null hypothesis is accepted, hence there is no significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to their Educational Qualification, teaching experience, Subject in which they do their research, type of institution and age.

## Findings

The mean value on the attitude of research work is almost same and all the research scholars are having both positive and negative attitude in accomplishing their research work.

From table 1, the null hypothesis is accepted, hence there is no significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to their Sex, Research centre, Mode of registration, Year of registration, Sex of the Supervisor, Marital status and the scholars who have children. From table 2, the sig-value is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis is accepted, hence there is no significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work

with respect to their Educational Qualification, teaching experience, Subject in which they do their research, type of institution and age.

## Conclusion

From the findings of the study there is no significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to their Sex, Research centre, Mode of registration, Year of registration, Sex of the Supervisor, Marital status, the scholars who have children, Educational Qualification, teaching experience, Subject in which they do their research, type of institution and age.

But most of the research scholars answered the questionnaire in the same manner and they all reported that they had faced many problems in doing their research work and also it is very difficult to look after the duties in their institution and research at the same time, every time they have the fear about viva-voce and they have suggested that doing PhD programme as full time is advisable. Hence this research paper aimed at finding out the attitude of the PhD scholars regarding their research work and to motivate them to carry on the research work with peace of mind.

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