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Manjunatha G

Librarian, The Oxford College of Science, Bangalore, manjudurga10@gmail.com

Prof. B T Sampath Kumar

Professor, Department of Studies and Research in Library and Information Science, Tumkur University, Tumakuru, Karnataka, India, sampathbt2001@gmail.com

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Publishing Practices of Faculty Members: A Survey

Mr. Manjunatha G

Librarian

The Oxford College of Science

Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

Email : manjudurga10@gmail.com

Prof. B. T. Sampath Kumar

Professor

Department of Studies and Research in

Library and Information Science

Tumkur University, Tumakuru, Karnataka, India

Email: sampathbt2001@gmail.com

Abstract

During the 1980s and 90s, the output of India's research was almost static while other countries grew rapidly, particularly in Asia. Even though India's spending on research has quadrupled in the last 15 years, it still doesn't match up to countries such as China and Brazil, who have been able to spend much more and faster to boost their research ability. The Indian government has made rigorous efforts to invest in education by creating facilities for education and research and specially focused on an international standard of scientific research and science education. In this context, the study has made an attempt to know the publishing practices of faculty members of Tumkur University. The study found that 76.4% of respondents were involved in publishing research and 70.6% were in research project. It also found that 52.3% of respondent preferred to publish their articles in National and International journals and 78.5% of respondents opined that they publish articles to improve their academic status.

Keywords: Publishing practices, Faculty members, Tumkur University.

Introduction

In the modern era, science and technology has been central to India's development efforts since the nation achieved independence in 1947. Despite these achievements, recent years have seen a growing realization among scholars, policymakers, and other observers that India lags behind other key countries and some of its BRIC partners in research investment and output.

The government has made concerted efforts to invest in education by creating facilities such as the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, dedicated to the highest international standards of scientific research and science education. In a recent five-year period, India produced roughly 126,000 papers, constituting 2.75% of the world's papers published in journals indexed by Thomson Reuters.

At a time when India is being looked at as the next big knowledge superpower, this could come as a shocker. In most disciplines, India's share in global research output was much below this overall average count². India has a long and distinguished history as a country of knowledge, learning and innovation. In the recent past, however, it has failed to realize its undoubted potential as a home for world class research. During the 1980s and 90s, the output of India's research was almost static while other countries grew rapidly, particularly in Asia. China expanded with an intensity and drive that led it rapidly to overtake leading European countries in the volume of its research publications. India is just beginning on this gradient (Adams, King and Singh, 2009). Even though India's spending on research has quadrupled in the last 15 years, it still doesn't match up to countries such as China and Brazil, who have been able to spend much more and faster to boost their research prowess.

Indian research is hampered by stifling bureaucracy, poor-quality education at most universities and insufficient funding. Successive governments have pledged to increase support for research and development to 2% of India's gross domestic product, but it has remained static at less than 0.9% of GDP since 2005. Even though India's scholarly output has quadrupled since the year 2000, the rate has been surpassed by the likes of Brazil and China. At the same time, India's scholarly impact, measured by the number of times papers from the country are cited in other research work, was 30% below the world average in the year 2013⁴. In this context the present study has made an attempt to know the research productivity and publishing practices of faculty members at Tumkur University, Tumakuru.

Review of Literature

Arpita (2016) Research experience imparts skills such as literature search, analyzing data, and critical appraisal of evidence and is associated with continued academic development, evidence-based clinical practice, and future research activity. This study found that 138 (69%) teachers were involved in research projects and 180 (90%) had articles published in journals. The

most common reason for not being involved in research was lack of time (25.8%) and for not having publications was lack of opportunity (50%). The main motivation to consider publication was career progression (53%) and selection of journal was mainly based on journal's prestige (40%). Most of faculties were aware of impact factor, plagiarism, and H-index. (43%) had training in research methodology, scientific writing, or publishing practices, and 93% were willing to participate in such a conference. The entire faculty agreed that research methodology should be made part of the curriculum at postgraduate level, 96% agreed that research hours should be allotted separately in the curriculum, whereas 51% of teachers approved that the completion of research project should be mandatory for promotion.

Manali (2014) this study found the positive attitude of teachers toward scientific reading and writing. They only require motivation and time. Faculties play an important role in research productivity and student motivation in research. To assess the attitude and experiences of post graduate teachers toward article writing and reading and to discuss the barriers faced by them. A total of 150 dental post graduate teachers from various Dental Colleges in South India participated as the study group. A questionnaire relating to publishing practices was distributed, and the results were analyzed. Majority of the study group (82%) were involved in the publication with many (48.4%) doing so for career progression. Journal prestige was the main reason for selection of journals. Lack of time was the main reason for those not involved in the publication.

Okpe (2013) the study consists of 154 faculty of Babcock University. Data for the study was collected using questionnaire titled Patterns of Research Output and Publications among Faculty in Private Universities. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics, frequency counts and simple percentage while the hypotheses were tested using Product Moment Correlation and chi- square. The result of the hypotheses showed that there is significant relationship between the status of faculty and pattern of research output publication, there is also significant relationship between the qualification and pattern of research output publication of the faculty and there is also significance difference in pattern of publications based on gender. Recommendations made for the improvement of research output publication of the faculty include mentoring, collaboration with foreign colleagues in research and publication; male lecturers should endeavor to publish more journal publications and female faculty be encouraged to increase their seminar presentation as well as text books publishing.

Objectives of the Study

- a) To know the publishing practices of faculty members of Tumkur University.
- b) To know the factors influencing the faculty members for submitting articles to a journal.
- c) To know the reasons for not publishing articles by faculty members.

Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is confined to both science and social science faculty members working in various departments of Tumkur University. The study covers faculty members working in both UG and PG level.

Methodology

The present study is based on the results of a questionnaire. The study used a questionnaire, with 18 questions spread over two parts (A) General information (B) Research article. Questionnaires were distributed randomly to the representative sample. The samples consist of 85 respondents. The duly filled questionnaires further analyzed and presented in the form of tables and graphs. The questionnaire was used to collect the data from the faculty members from the various departments and analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 21.0).

Data analysis and interpretation

Demography of respondents

Table-1: Demography of respondents

Gender	No. of respondents (N=85)	Percentage
Male	60	70.6
Female	25	29.4
Age(in years)		
< 30	10	12
31-40	45	52.3
41-50	24	28.2
50>	6	7.5
Subject		
Social science	42	49.4
Science	35	41.1
Commerce	8	9.4
Total	85(100)	100

Table-1 shows the demography of respondents. It can be seen from the table that majority of respondents are from the age group of 31- 40 years (52.3%) followed by 41-50 years (28.2%). Very few of them are from the age group <30 years (12%) and >50 years (7.5%). Table also shows the distribution of respondents by subjects. Majority of respondents are from Social science (49.4%) followed by Science (41.1%) and very few of them are from the Commerce (9.4 %).

Teaching and research experience of faculty members

Table- 2: Teaching and research experience of faculty members

Teaching Experience (in years)	No. of respondent (N=85)	Percentage
1-10	40	47.1
11-20	37	43.6
21-30	7	8.3
31>	1	1
Research Experience		
(in years)		
1-10	56	65.8
11-20	18	21.1
No experience	11	12.9

Table-2 shows the teaching and research experience of faculty members. Table shows that majority of respondents have 1-10 years (47.1%) of teaching experience followed by 11-20 years (43.6%). Very few of them have 21-30 years of teaching experience. Table also shows the research experience of faculty members. The majority of respondents have 1-10 years of research experience (65.8 %) followed by 11-20 years have (21.1%).

Involvement of faculty members in various academic activities

Table-3: Involvement of faculty members in various academic activities

Academic works	No. of respondents
Working for M.Phil. / PhD Degree	41 (48.2)
Guiding M.Phil. / PhD Students	29 (34.1)
Working for research project	60 (70.6)
Publishing research Articles	65 (76.4)
Publishing Books	39 (45.9)

Note: Number given in parenthesis represents the percentage

Table-3 shows the faculty members involvement of faculty members in various academic works. It can be seen that majority of respondents have involved in publishing research articles (76.4%) followed by research project (70.6%) and working for M.Phil. /PhD. Degree (48.2%). Some of them are publishing books (45.9%). Only (34.1%) of them actively involved in guiding M.Phil. /PhD. degree students.

Preference of faculty members in publishing articles

Table- 4: Preference of faculty members in publishing articles

Preferences	To Full Extent	To Some Extent	To Little Extent	Can't say
Proceedings of the National conference /seminars	49 (75.4)	9 (13.8)	3 (4.6)	4 (6.1)
Proceedings of the International conference /seminars	41 (63.1)	10 (15.4)	3 (4.6)	11 (16.9)
National Journals	34 (52.3)	14 (21.5)	3 (4.6)	14 (21.5)
International Journals	29 (44.6)	23 (35.6)	3 (4.6)	10 (15.4)
E-Journals	15 (23.1)	16 (24.6)	5 (7.7)	29 (44.6)
Book Chapters	24 (36.90)	9 (13.8)	4 (6.2)	28 (43)
Magazines	14 (21.5)	7 (10.8)	9 (13.8)	35 (53.9)

Note: Number given in parenthesis represents the percentage

Total Number is more than 100 percentages because of multiple choice questions

The preference of faculty members in publishing articles is shown in table- 4. To full extent majority of respondents (75.4%) prefer to publish articles in proceedings of the National conference/seminars. Over 63.1% of them prefer to publish their article in proceeding of the International conference / seminars. 52.3% of respondent prefer to publish their articles in National journals.

Factors considered by faculty members to submit article to journal

Table-5: Factors considered by faculty members to submit article to journal

Factors (n=65)	To full Extent	To some Extent	To little Extent	Can't say
Speed of Reviewing	31 (47.7)	22 (33.8)	4 (6.2)	8 (12.3)
Editorial board	26 (40.0)	18 (27.7)	3 (4.6)	18 (27.7)
Impact Factor	28 (43.1)	28 (43.1)	7 (10.8)	15 (23.1)
Size of Readership	16 (24.6)	18(27.7)	8 (12.3)	23 (55.4)

Available in an Electronic Version	13 (20.0)	13 (20.0)	7 (10.8)	32 (49.2)
Available as Conventional Hard Copy	20 (30.8)	20 (30.8)	4 (6.2)	21 (32.3)
Easy to get accepted	17 (26.2)	18 (27.79)	3 (4.6)	27 (41.6)
Coverage by Abstracting Services	16 (24.6)	16 (24.6)	4 (6.2)	29 (44.6)

Note: Number given in parenthesis represents the percentage

Total Number is more than 100 percentages because of multiple choice questions

The various factors considered by faculty members to submit their articles to a journal in presented in table- 5. It shows that to full extent majority of respondents (47.7%) consider the speed of reviewing while 43.1% of them consider the impact factor of the journal. Another factor which influenced them to submit their articles to a journal is editorial board (40%).

Reasons for publishing articles and books

Table-6: Reasons for publishing articles and books

Reasons	No. of respondent
To keep abreast of New Information	49 (75.4)
To improve Academic Status	51 (78.5)
For Promotion	32 (49.2)
To add new Information / Theory in My subject	36 (55.4)
To increase the number of Articles	42 (64.6)

Note: Number given in parenthesis represents the percentage

Respondents were asked to indicate purpose of publish articles and books. It is clear from the table-6 that 78.5% of respondents publish articles to improve academic status. Respondents are also publish articles and books to keep abreast of new information (75.4%) followed by for promotion (49.2%), to add new information/ theory in may subject (55.4%), to increase the numbers of articles (64.6%) of respondents.

Opinion on the accessibility of journal literature

Table- 7: Opinion on the accessibility of journal literature

Opinion (n=65)	To full Extent	To some Extent	To little Extent	Can't say
Access to all Journals I need	26 (40.0)	19 (29.2)	5 (7.7)	15 (23)
Access to Most journals I need	10 (15.4)	18 (27.7)	7 (10.8)	30 (46.1)
Difficulty to Access the Journals I need	14 (21.5)	19 (29.2)	8 (12.3)	24 (36.9)
Frequently have Difficulty to Access the Journals I need	11 (16.9)	27 (41.5)	3 (4.6)	24 (36.9)
Always have Great Difficulty to Access the Journals I need	16 (24.6)	13 (20.0)	9 (13.8)	27 (41.6)

Note: Number given in parenthesis represents the percentage

Total Number is more than 100 percentages because of multiple choice questions

The table-7 shows the opinion on the accessibility of journals by respondents. Majority of respondents (41.5%) opined that to some extent they have frequently difficulty to access the journals which they need. 40% of them opined that they can access to all journals which they need. Very few of them (29.2%) opined that it is difficult to access the journals which they need.

Findings and Conclusion

It is found that majority of respondents have 1-10 years of teaching experience and research experience. Very few of them have no research experience. It is found that majority of respondents have involved in research project followed by publishing research articles and working for M.Phil. /PhD. Degree. The majority of respondents (75.4%) prefer to publish articles in proceedings of the National conference/seminars. Over 63.1% of them prefer to publish their articles in proceeding of the International conference / seminars. 52.3% of respondent prefer to publish their articles in National journals (52.3%). This clearly indicates that the faculty members preferred to publish article only in national/international conference proceedings but only few of them preferred to publish articles in journals. The faculty should also publish articles

in national / international journals. The librarian may also create awareness among the faculty about journals. Librarian should also provide a list of journals published in various subjects.

The majority of respondents consider the speed of reviewing is the criteria for publishing articles and the impact factor of the journal. Not surprisingly majority of respondents publish articles to improve academic status. And to keep abreast of new information. Only few of them are publishing articles for promotion. Majority of respondents opined that they have difficulty to access the journals which they need. Hence the library should subscribe need based journals based on the demands of the users.

This study has provided insights of the publishing practices of faculty members of Tumkur University. The findings of the study indicate that faculty members are actively involved in publishing articles and also in projects. Only few of them are not publishing articles. If the university authority provides basic facilities for the serious researchers to carryout research in their areas of interest, the faculty will publish articles and actively involved in the academic and research work.

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