

Importance of Research Skills

Research is creating new knowledge-Neil Armstrong

Research is required for academicians and students especially in rapidly transforming societies. Moving from traditional to modern societies is full of challenges and unforeseen circumstances. Research answers unfolded layers of contemporary societies which are full of new challenges. Research gathers information and knowledge in a scientific manner with ultimate aim of improving human life. Researcher makes an untiring effort to collect new awareness about legal aspects and different social phenomenon frequently emerging in the new globally exposed societies. Researcher may or may not be successful in all his initiatives to collect new facts but attempts in this direction will definitely help society to upgrade or at least start thinking differently. The basic purpose of science is to establish the systematic relationship between the “facts”. Hence to find out facts, all the sciences are bound to follow the “scientific method” which will provide us the factual reality. Like physical sciences research is possible in social sciences also but the role of social scientists is very important while conducting research because he is dealing with social phenomenon and human beings with wavering mindsets. Research provides practical solutions, to undertake initiatives that leads to social refinement, social change, advancement and social development. Outcomes of research can be utilised by administrators for making policies and planning purposes. Research help us to verify, confirm, alter and re-assert the existing theories and to establish new ones. Research is important in educational activities as it helps in enhancing intellectual activities and sharpens human skills. “A research methodology is a system of rules, principles and procedures, that guide scientific investigation”. Some of the common research methods are: systematic observations, case study method, the social survey method, public opinion method and the experimental method etc. In empirical studies data can be collected with the help of interview schedule, questionnaire and observations etc. All research methods have their own pros and cons but it becomes duty of the researchers to overcome all these hurdles with their level of intelligence and without being biased. For a lawyer, the case study method is considered very appropriate to prepare his case. All relevant and detailed information can be systematically arranged and utilised later during the course of the discussions in the court. Capacity to logically comprehend without subjective interpretations will yield better results of any research initiatives. So, research is a systematic study in a particular area. It is conducted by applying scientific methods. Many unfolded layers of contemporary societies require research initiatives to improve upon the current situations. In modern societies need of the hour is to develop scientific temperament, analytical skills and critical thinking. Research is the solution to all these requirements of transforming societies. Challenges of current societies require logical disposition to improve upon the changing scenario and make this world a better place of living for all human beings, where all of them will enjoy equality, liberty and security. Aims of democracy, human right organisations, secularism, modernity and development are possible only if societies will have logical interpretations of various areas. Research is an attempt in this direction in order to obtain main purpose of creating awareness of problematic areas with the goal of improving societies.

Purpose of research:

- 1) To produce new factual knowledge by gathering proof and evidence.
- 2) To check already existing knowledge .
- 3) To develop rational and analytical knowledge.
- 4) To understand problematic areas.

- 5) To find out causes and factors of problematic areas.
- 6) To gather knowledge of vacuums in legal and social aspects.
- 7) To develop understanding of changes which are required in existing laws and social settings.
- 8) To test previous or already existing theories .
- 9) To build up new theories by conducting exploratory research.
- 10) To sensitise public by generating awareness on areas of concern.

Thus, research is an essential component to generate knowledge and testing already existing knowledge. Research facilitates the learning process with the ultimate aim of improving skills, knowledge and societies. An intelligent, curious, committed, patient, keen observer with good communication skills is a fit person to develop research skills.

Basic skills for research:

- 1) Explore area of research interest .
- 2) Read already existing research articles and develop historical background of particular research area.
- 3) Try to find out gap areas in research topic after reviewing literature.
- 4) Prepare your research proposal including hypothesis, objectives, research methods, techniques universe or sample of study and start working on the research proposal.
- 5) Write down all key findings and details of literature which you have studied during research process, that will help in writing footnotes, endnotes and bibliography.
- 6) Explore and explain by gathering information from primary or secondary data.
- 7) Gather information from experts in that particular research area.
- 8) Organise gathered information from different sources very systematically according to objectives of the study.
- 9) Analyse data and recommend relevant solutions.
- 10) **Say a big no to Plagiarism.**

Research skills equip you with meaningful course of action to remain well informed, productive and analytical. It helps to provide suitable advice on a given topic after researching broadly on that topic. Research can not be learned in one day; many hurdles, doubts and challenges may emerge in between the entire process. It requires continuous efforts to explore the unsaid areas with systematic and scientific temperament. Law students should keep the following additional things in mind while conducting research on any area. Law students should adhere to systematic planning of research proposal. Sticking to strategy will ensure perfectness in the out-come of the research product. Law students should search for statutes and governmental regulations which are already existing and if they require any change. Law students should also study latest cases and judgements relevant to their research proposal.

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