

# Challenges and Opportunities of doing research in Rural and Urban institutions in India

**Prof. Naishal Raval**

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Faculty of Commerce,  
GLS University, Ahmedabad.

Received: June 09, 2018

Accepted: July 29, 2018

## ABSTRACT

*The health of any nations is measured by economic growth and development. India is comprised of total 29 states and there allotment of resources is done on sharing basis between center government and state government. As per the population census of 2011, the India's population is 121 crore and it is expected that country will surpass the china and it will become world's largest population country. It is also said that India ranks third in education in the world followed by China and United States of America. In India, education is provided by both private and public sector by the control of government from the three levels, i.e. Centre Government, State Government, and Local Government. A word "Research" can be defined as a detail study into a particular problem, concern, or an issue using the scientific methods which contains the observation the world or people around you and creating a hypothesis about the relationships around the world. It is a process to discover the new knowledge.*

*This paper highlights the descriptive and theoretical analysis with the objective of highlighting the higher education system of India and Gujarat which includes the total numbers of universities and the various challenges and opportunities of doing research in rural and urban institutes of India and various funding agency for pursuing research in India.*

**Keywords:** Social Science Research, Education, Economic development, Indian Council of Social Science Research, University Grant Scheme.

## Introduction

A nation's economic health can be measured by looking at that nation's economic growth and development. A nation's economic development is usually indicated by an increase in standard of life and it is generally measured by using the human development index. India, a nation which is considered as a one of the greatest parts of the South Asia, which have a composition of 29 states where all the available resources are divided between Centre government and State government. According to population census of 2011, the population in India is 121 crore and it is expected to surpass the China by the 2030 and the largest democracy in the world as well. India has a huge talent reserved and with the changing scenario in Indian economy after 1991 reforms and there are also various opportunities increased in the field of higher education.

With this it is also said that education system in India is the third largest in the world followed by China and United States of America. In India, education is provided by both private and public sector by the control of government from the three levels, i.e. Centre Government, State Government, and Local Government. During Independence majority of the people where belongs to the Rural area and there main occupation was the agriculture and later on after the 7 decades of independence the scenario is changed. Education is not knowledge alone, but also the capacity to utilize it and quality of education is dependent on the ability which imparts to make proper use of the learning<sup>1</sup>(Verma, 2003).

Now a days, various technology is became an essential part of learning, research, and teaching as well. A word "Research" can be defined as a detail study into a particular problem, concern, or an issue using the scientific methods which contains the observation the world or people around you and creating a hypothesis about the relationships around the world. It is a process to discover the new knowledge.

## Objectives

- To highlights the Education sector in India and Gujarat.
- To analyze the various Challenges found during Research in rural institutes and urban institution in India.
- To highlights the funding opportunities for research in India.

<sup>1</sup>Significance of ethics in education, Justice J.S. Verma, Jamia Milia Ismlia University, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2003.

**Research Methodology**

Data collected for the completion of this paper is purely based on secondary source which collected from the websites of Government of India, Government of Gujarat, and University Grant Commission, National and International journal related with education, research, and social science.

**Education sector in India and Gujarat**

After passing their schooling, many students enrolled in various streams like Science, Commerce, Business Administration, Management, Law, Education, Computer application and after successful completion this degree course student get enrolled themselves for Post-Graduation. So, finally after completion of such master’s program all the students are willing to get jobs but many people also focus their career in the field of Research. It will be a person’s interest whether he or she want to pursue their career in research or in some other field. In India, the main governing body at the tertiary level is the University Grant Commission which enforces its standard suggestions to the government and supports them in managing between the Centre government and state government up to Post graduations programs and Doctorate degree.

In global education industries India holds a vital place. Education sector is one of the main aspects for economic growth. India’s education system is very strong with 800 plus universities. At the time of independence India had only 20 Universities and by the year 2013, the total number of universities in India was 727 and now the As on April 2018, Total numbers of Universities in India are 850.

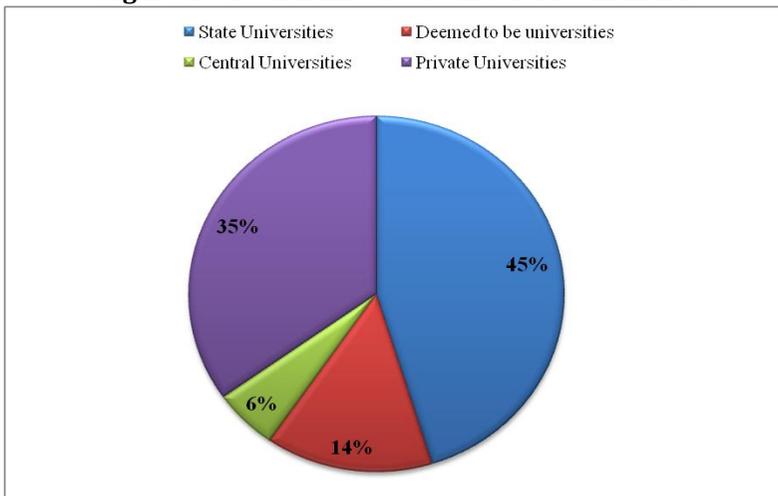
**Table: 1 Total number of Universities in India**

Universities	Numbers
State Universities	384
Deemed to be universities	123
Central Universities	47
Private Universities	296
<b>Total Universities</b>	<b>850</b>

Source:www.ugc.ac.in

Out of total 850 Universities, 384 universities are belongs to the state government which is termed as State Universities while 123 are deemed to be universities, 47 Universities are belongs to the Central Government which is termed are Central Universities, and 296 are Private universities. According to Government of Gujarat, In Gujarat there is total 63 Universities. Out of 65 Universities 18 are the State university, 4 Agriculture, 32 are Private universities while 3 Central university 6 institute of national importance.

**Figure 1 - Total numbers of Universities in India**



From the above graph 1, it has been found that in India out of the total universities 45 percent are the State universities, 35 percent are private universities and remaining central universities and deemed universities are 14 percent and 6 percent respectively.

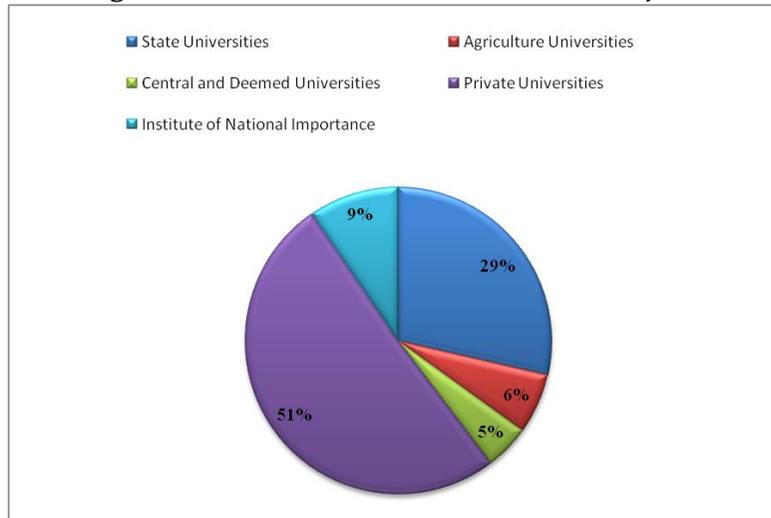
**Table: 2 Total numbers of universities in Gujarat**

Universities	Numbers
State Universities	18
Agriculture Universities	4

Central and Deemed Universities	3
Private Universities	32
Institute of National Importance	6
<b>Total Universities</b>	<b>63</b>

Source:[www.gujarat-education.gov.in/education/](http://www.gujarat-education.gov.in/education/)

**Figure 2 – Total numbers of Universities in Gujarat**



From the above graph 2, it has been found that out of total universities in Gujarat 29 percent are the state universities, 51 percent are private universities which formed under the state private universities Act. While 9 percent is the Institute of National Importance while remaining 6 percent are Agriculture universities and remaining 5 percent are central and deemed university.

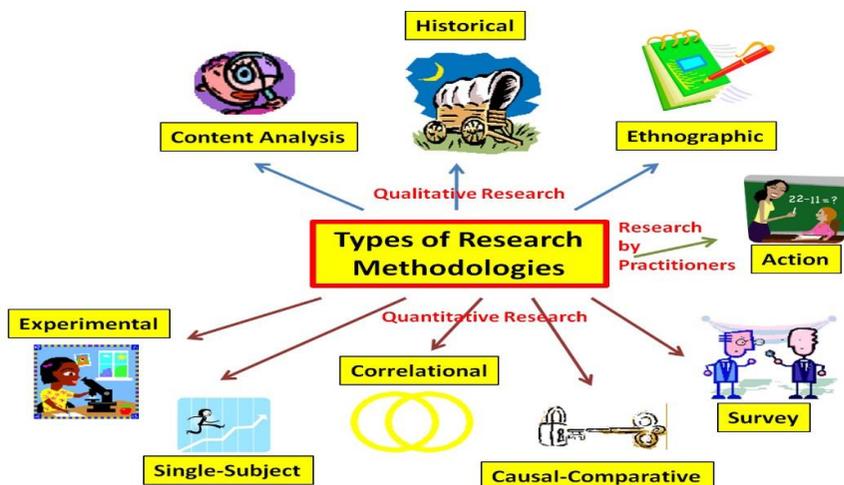
Education is one of the important sectors for the economic growth. On an average Indian economy is growing on 7.3 percent to 7.9 percent in the financial year 2018-19. India ranks 4<sup>th</sup> largest producer of PhD research scholar.

**Various types of research:**

Research means diligent and systematic inquiry or investigation into a subject to discover or revise facts, theories and application. There are various types of research but two basic approaches are more popular such as quantitative and qualitative research.

Quantitative research refers to the systematic empirical investigation of any phenomena through Statistical data, mathematical or computation techniques. It includes models, thesis and hypothesis.

Qualitative research includes collecting, analyzing and interpreting data by observing what people do and say.



### Challenges of doing research in Rural & Urban area

According to Clifford Woody research comprises defining and redefining problems, formulating Hypothesis or suggested solutions; collecting, organizing and evaluating data; making deductions and reaching conclusions; and at last carefully testing the conclusions to determine whether they fit the formulating hypothesis. D. Slesinger and M. Stephenson in the Encyclopedia of Social Sciences define research as “the manipulation of things, concepts or symbols for the purpose of generalizing to extend, correct or verify knowledge, whether that knowledge aids in construction of theory or in the practice of an art.”<sup>2</sup>. (Kothari, 2004)

In general terms ‘Rural’ means Village and ‘urban’ means City. In India, rural area means a place where low population density and there major source of revenues are agriculture along with fishing, and cottage industries. In India, Urban area means a place where human settlement with high population density, good infrastructure facility and with various basic necessities. According to population census of 2011, place like Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad etc. are the largest cities in India. An institute is an organization body which is created for particular purpose. A research institute is founded for the purpose of doing research. It may be specialize in basic research, applied research, quantitative or qualitative research, descriptive and analytical research etc. while engaging in such research there are many challenges for of doing research in rural institutes and urban institutes.

- Availability of data is one of the major challenges, before pursuing the research, researcher have to make sure that sufficient data is available. Data are classified into two types one is primary data which is collected by the researcher from making a schedule on interviews, well-structured questionnaire, observations, etc. while another is secondary data means a data which already collected by someone else which can be collected from government officials, booklets, various magazines, national or international journals. If the researcher is belongs from the rural area then it is little bit difficult to manage the data but if the researcher is from the urban area then it can be easily found by going to that particular place for collecting the data.
- Research funding normally term as a covering any funding related to research. In India, there are various funding agencies which provide monetary grants for research field such as Science and Technology, Social Science etc. Such agencies are run by government body and non-government body as well. For gaining the benefits from such agencies a researcher must be well prepared with their research plan or proposals in systematic manner at the time of application.
- Research is an academic activity and as such the term should be used in a technical sense. Research is also refer to the systematic method which consist of enunciating the problem, formulating the hypothesis, collecting the data, analyzing the data and reaching to the particular conclusion either in the form of solutions towards the concerned problem or in certain generalization for some theoretical formulation. While doing this process it consumes lots of time especially when the researcher is dependent on someone else or some officials, during collection of the details from library etc.
- Now a day researcher easily able to find the data from the world of International Network but they are facing access problem due to not having proper internet facility especially people living in rural area. Sometimes it also happens that urban people are also not able to use such data because they are not able to access some websites, some renowned libraries which is having limited access.
- Access to data modeling software–Most commonly used software such as Microsoft Excel, Statistical Packages for Social Science research, R Programming, Statistical Analysis System etc. Many times it’s happen that researcher having less knowledge about the statistics or statistical software are not able to work accordingly. They have to consult a person who is having well knowledge about such software. Such software is also available in the paid version and due to high price researcher is not able to use such software. Researcher doing research from the urban institutes are easily able to use such software because the licensee version is already purchased by that institutes.
- Publishing there research work in the reputed journals, which are also highly expensive and this discourage the researcher from doing the research.

<sup>2</sup>The encyclopedia of Social Science, Vol IX, Macmillan, 1930

**Fellowship Opportunites for Research Ministry of science and Technology****Extra Mural Research Funding (Individual Centric)**

Individual centric competitive mode of funding will be provided under the EMR funding schemes. SERB supports potential scientists for undertaking research in frontier areas of S&T in Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences & Mathematical Sciences.

**Scheme for funding High Risk -High Reward Research**

The Scheme for funding High Risk - High Reward Research aims at supporting proposals that are conceptually new and risky, and if successful, expected to have a paradigm shifting influence on the S&T. This may be in terms of formulating new hypothesis, or scientific breakthroughs which aid in emergence of new technologies.

**Start-Up Research Grant (Young Scientists)**

Start-up grant for Young Scientists is restructured w.e.f. 1st September 2015 into two new schemes: Early Career Research Award (ECRA), National Post-Doctoral Fellowship (NPDF) research grants through the extramural funding schemes of various S&T agencies of the Government of India.

**National Post-Doctoral Fellowship**

The SERB-National Post-Doctoral Fellowship (N-PDF) is aimed to identify motivated young researchers and provide them support for doing research in frontier areas of science and engineering. The fellows will work under a mentor, and it is hoped that this training will provide them a platform to develop as an independent researcher.

**SERB Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship****CSIR young Scientist Awards****Scheme for Young Scientists & Technology****Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award****Sponsored Research****Indo-U.S. Fellowship for Women in STEMM**

Different area of research is having different opportunities if we talked about the Social Science research in India. It is promoted by ICSSR which was established in the year 1969. It provides grants for projects, fellowships, international collaboration, capacity building, survey etc. with reference to promoting the social science research in India. Social Science includes the subject matters like Economics, Sociology, History, Psychology, political science, public administration etc. In India Institutes such as Tata Institute of Social Science, VisvaBharti, The Delhi School of Social Science, Madras School of Social Science, Women's Studies in Jadavpur University, Jawaharlal Nehru University etc. According to an OECD report of the year 2014, India ranks fourth in terms of producing PhD graduates with total candidates 24,300. (OECD, 2014)

- **Funding Opportunities for Research in Social Science** - Research in Social science is largely funded by Government of India and its agencies like ICSSR, UGC. It is difficult to arrive at an exact picture of what portion of the central government budget is allocated for social science research. Such organization provides the fund for minor and major projects related to the social science, different fellowships for different researcher like National fellowships, senior fellowships, Post-Doctoral fellowships, Doctoral fellowships etc.
- **India's Collaboration with other nations in terms of Research and Education**  
ICSSR delivers an opportunities to Indian and foreign candidates for interaction and research in Social Science. The Council is one of the implementing agencies of the social science component of the Cultural Exchange Agreements (CEPs) and Educational Exchange Programs (EEPs) signed between the Government of India and the governments of other nations.
  - Nations like China, Thailand, and France is collaborated for Cultural Exchange Program whit ICSSR.
  - ICSSR also had collaboration with Vietnam Academy of Social Science (Veitnam), National Science Foundations (Sri-lanka), Economic and Social Research Council (UK).The Netherlands Scientific Organization (Netherland), German Research Foundation (Germany), Japan Society for Promotion of Science (Japan), etc. are the concentered organization which undertakes activities like exchange of scholars, joint seminar and research etc.
  - Countries like France, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands etc. are also engaged in multi-lateral collaborations for the purpose of promoting the strengthening of the social science within these countries.
- **Financial assistance for organizing International Conferences in India**

The ICSSR is its endeavor to encourage dialogue and discussion on important issues of social science relevance, promotes and provides financial assistance to organize national & international conferences/ seminars in India. The ICSSR's Seminar Grant Scheme aims at facilitating research in different disciplines of social sciences and interdisciplinary areas. The seminars provide opportunities to national and international social science researchers, academicians and scholars to exchange views and opinions, address and debate research questions on themes of contemporary and policy relevance and generate academic research output on important social issues. (ICSSR)

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Research can be done in various subjects such as science, technology, medical, social science, languages and Humanities, educations, commerce and management etc. To pursue research there are lots of challenges at the rural area and urban area as well but if we focused on opportunities for research in India then we have hundreds of institutes which provide facilities like Funds, electronic equipment's like personal computer or laptop, statistical software, library facilities etc.

It has been observed that the subjects other than social science have more opportunity and if we focuses on social science than there are not much opportunity in India but with the proper implementation of allocated budget by Government of India fund help of the different organization like ICSSR, UGC, and other private funding agencies are working in it well so that researcher from India can pursue his/her career in research especially in a subject like social science.

### **References**

- ICSSR. (n.d.). Retrieved July 31, 2018, from <https://www.icssr.org/programme>
- Kothari, C. R. (2004). Research methodolgy. New age publisher.
- OECD. (2014). Education at a Glance .
- UGC. (2017-18). All India and States Profile. New Delhi.
- Verma, J. (2003, October 8th). Significance of ethics in education. India.
- [www.gujarat-education.gov.in/education/](http://www.gujarat-education.gov.in/education/)
- [www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in)
- [www.investopedia.com](http://www.investopedia.com)