

## ***Research Promotion Schemes (RPS) of University Grants Commission (UGC) in India for Higher Education Institutes***

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### ***ABSTRACT***

*Higher education institutions affect the growth of a country with their research contributions and these contributions are majorly decided by the research culture of higher education institutes which on the other hand is decided by the research promotion schemes. University Grants Commission (UGC) is a statutory body laid down by UGC act 1956 under Ministry of Education of India provides the various schemes for faculty of higher education institutes to facilitate the researchers.*

***Keywords:*** *Research promotion schemes, Higher education institutes, Faculty, UGC , fellowships, awards.*

### ***Introduction:***

Higher education Institutes are the most important constituents of the education system that requires careful attention to anticipate prospective growth of a country. Indian higher education is the third-largest educational system having global competency which includes IITs, Institutes of National Importance, central universities, state universities, deemed-to-be universities, private universities, autonomous institutes and colleges. Research culture and its quality in higher institutes are amongst the decisive parameters for quality assessment of higher education institutes. Research is comprehended as an essential component of higher education because of their importance in advancement of the existing knowledge in all facets of education.

Research culture in higher education institutes has been average due to several reasons including shortage of research facilities, inadequate infrastructure facilities and scarce government & non-government financial support. Further, a lesser level of awareness regarding various government & non-government research promotion schemes amongst the higher education institutes also intensifies the average research culture in India. Considering these arguments, the present study is conducted to explore various government and non-government schemes for the promotion of research available for higher education institutions in India.

### ***Objectives of Study:***

1. Comparative study of government and non-government funding schemes
2. Assessment of financial aid to the faculty of higher education institutes of the country
3. To create funding awareness among the faculty of Sciences and Social sciences of higher education institutions

### ***Review of Literature***

Heinze (2008) examined the funding schemes that were introduced to encourage scientists for conducting eccentric and high-risk research. In the study, various schemes were evaluated on the basis of target group and field, selection process and criteria, budget size, and funding duration. It was suggested by the study that sponsorship programs for ground-breaking research should firstly act in response to the present talent pool rather than setting capricious funding thresholds. Further, it was

recommended to undertake efforts to challenge the selection bias of peer review and to take an applicant's ongoing research into account. Wang and Tsai (1998) studied the effect of research and development promotion schemes of government on R&D expenditures in the electronic component industry. In the study, the impact of three promotion incentives which were R&D tax credits, exemption from tariffs, and accelerated depreciation were investigated. The study was based on secondary data collected with the help of an interview of 124 respondents. The collected data were analyzed using a two-limit model. In the results of the study, it was found that the scheme generated a rate of increase in industrial R&D investments of about 16%. Further, it was observed that on an average, the impacts of R&D tax credits, exemption from tariffs, and accelerated depreciation, were about 10%, 4%, and 2%, respectively. In addition to this, a negative relationship was found between the size of the firm and the influence of the promotion scheme on R&D expenditures in the industry. Warren and Plumb (1999) explored the issues, benefits and problems associated with the various types of award scheme undertaken for University College London in December 1997. The study was based on primary data collected with the help of a survey and data were collected considering a wide range of activities, both in the UK and overseas, and four types of award scheme were identified: traditional award schemes (i.e. prizes); teaching fellowship schemes; educational development grant schemes; and promotion/bonus schemes. The study explained the advantages and limitations of each model, including a summary of their purposes, processes and assessment criteria, presented as a guide to others who may be considered a scheme for their own institution.

From the above review of literature, it has been observed that a few studies in respect of research promotion schemes have been conducted worldwide and in India. Considering this research gap, the present study has been conducted to fill the gap and will create awareness amongst the faculty working in higher education institutions.

#### ***Discussion:***

Research Promotion schemes (RPS) are meant to promote research in the various areas of science & technology, commerce & management and the social sciences. The objective of these RPSs is to provide funds and other facilities to the faculty members of educational and research institutes. There are various research government and non-government funding agencies which generally ask for the research proposals throughout the year. The acceptance of proposed research proposals depends on the quality of the proposal.

#### ***Requisites of an Ideal Research Proposal:***

- Proposal should include a specific and apparent objectives based on the literature survey
- Details of equipment and other research facilities required for the achievement of expected research objectives
- Expected outcome of research proposal
- Societal utility of the research

#### ***Research Promotion Schemes of UGC in India:***

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is the largest funding agency that obtains the financial share from the annual general budget of the country. UGC uses these monetary assets to promote research in the areas of Humanities, Social Sciences, Languages, Literature, Pure sciences, Engineering & Technology, Pharmacy, Medical and Agricultural Sciences. UGC provides funds to the research proposals of the permanent/ regular, working/retired teachers in the Universities and Colleges which are enlisted under section 2(f) and 12B of the UGC Act, 1956. There are two major schemes by which UGC distributes the research funds in the country viz. Major research project scheme and minor research project scheme along with various fellowships for the post-doctoral research in the country and abroad.

- (a) **Major Research Project Scheme:** In the major research projects scheme the assistance is limited to Rs. 15.00 lakhs for projects in humanities and social sciences and Rs. 20.00 lakhs in Sciences including engineering & technology, medicine, pharmacy & agriculture etc. The assistance provided for equipment, books and journals, chemicals, contingencies, travel & field work, hiring technical services, fellowship to research personnel and other items needed for the project for a duration of three years.
- (b) **Minor Research Project Scheme:** Minor research project in sciences including engineering & technology, medical, pharmacy agriculture etc. provides the grant of Rs. 5.00 lacs and in humanities, social science, languages, literature, arts, law and allied disciplines. Rs. 3.00 lacs are offered to the researchers. In this scheme also financial support is provided in all the categories as provided in the major research project scheme of UGC.
- (c) **UGC's Faculty Research Promotion Schemes:** This research funding option of UGC offers 3 different Schemes.
1. **Start-Up Research Grant**
  2. **Mid-Career Award**
  3. **BSR Faculty Fellowship**

In Start-Up Research Grant, Rs. 10.00 lakhs is provided for three years, which can be utilised for items like minor equipment, consumables, contingencies, fieldwork, travel, etc. without any grant allocation for research fellow and assistant. The grant is released in 2 installments. A grant of Rs. 10.00 lakhs is provided in Mid-Career Award for three years which can be utilized towards minor equipment, consumables, chemicals, glasswares, contingencies, fieldwork, travel, etc. in BSR Faculty Fellowship scheme a grant of Rs. 5.00 lakhs per annum, and a Fellowship of Rs. 50,000 per month is provided for a maximum duration of 3 years where grant can be utilized for purchase of equipment, computer/laptop, printer, chemicals, glasswares, consumables, contingency, hiring project/technical assistant, field work, travel etc.

(d) **Research Awards:** This scheme provides one time opportunity to permanent teachers of universities/institutions having doctorate degrees in alternate years. The award is given to only those lecturers, senior lecturers, selection-grade lecturers and professors who are under 45 years of age at the time of submission of their application with age relaxation to certain classes. 100 selections are made from the disciplines of sciences, humanities, social sciences and engineering & technology based on the recommendations of an expert committee constituted by the UGC. Financial assistance in form of full salary to the awardee and a grant of Rs. 2.00 lakhs for humanities & social sciences and Rs 3.00 lakhs for sciences/engineering & technology is provided for purchase of books and journals, chemicals and equipment.

(e) **Post-Doctoral Fellowships**

1. **Post-Doctoral Fellowships for SC/ST Candidates:** This scheme is intended to provide fellowships annually to 100 SC/ST candidates with a doctorate degree for advance research in their chosen field.
2. **Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Women:** This scheme is important for unemployed women candidates having Ph.D degree for post-doctoral research in Science, Engineering and Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences.
3. **Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Humanities & Social Sciences including languages:** In this scheme 200 candidates holding Ph.D degree can go for advanced studies and research in Humanities and Social Sciences including language per year.

4. **Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship:** Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship is provided to the research fellows holding Ph.D degree or submitted Ph.D to pursue Post-doctoral research in Basic Sciences/ Medical/ Engineering and Technology. Financial assistance of Rs. 43400, Rs. 45000 and Rs. 46500 are given to the research fellow in Ist year, second year and third year, respectively.
5. **Emeritus Fellowship:** This scheme of UGC facilitates superannuated teachers active in the research upto the age of 70 years from recognized universities and colleges under UGC Act, to pursue active research in their respective field of specialization. 100 fellowships each for sciences and humanities and 200 fellowships for social Sciences and languages are provided in the scheme.

#### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, this can be ascertained that UGC serves as an important funding agency for promotion of research culture amongst the faculty of higher education institutes. The research schemes facilitate the all types of faculty members of higher education institutes like the new entrant, mid-career and the superannuated.

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