

Ethics of Research in Management

Editorial from Editor-in-Chief (Vol.-4 No.-1)*
BVIMSR's Journal of Management Research

Our Institute has entered in to the fourth year of publication of the BVIMSR's Journal of Management Research. During this period we have also conducted two National and two International Conferences. We have had a lot of experience with the kind of research articles and papers coming for presentation in the Conferences or for publication in our Journal. Our experience shows that efforts are required in the direction of improving the quality of research done by the faculty members of the Management Institutions.

We have observed that most of the papers are lacking in research methodology. There are no proper objectives, no hypotheses, no research questions, no proper sampling plan, no definition and measurement of concepts and no theory.

Many times the papers are dominated by introduction of the theory and review of literature which is a collection of material from published work and not the author's own work. In a research paper the introduction and review of literature should be bare minimum for helping the readers to understand the authors' work. The objective of a research paper/article is to communicate the work done by the author (researcher).

Authors also give formulae like for mean, SD, chi-square, t-test, correlations etc which are known to the readers and are available in books. Some authors even explain what is research? what are various steps in conducting research?, what are types of research? etc. All these are not necessary in a research paper/article.

Some faculty members send MBA students' theses either in truncated form or even in full for publication in the Journal. In most cases these theses lack in theory, methodology, sample size, analysis of results and presentation. If there is any thesis which is good the faculty member should rewrite in a suitable article/research paper format before sending for publication in the Journal.

Many authors do not differentiate between Bibliography and References. As a result in some papers the bibliography is too long running in to even 8 to 10 pages. A research paper should contain only references and not the bibliography.

There have also been instances of plagiarism. We have identified plagiarism to the extent of even 100%. There were two instances in which articles from foreign authors were sent for publication by simply changing the name of the authors. Such instances are of great concern to all of us.

I therefore suggest a few steps to be taken by all the Management Institutions to improve the quality of research papers and to prevent plagiarism. These are:

1. Every Management Institution should constitute a committee to review the research papers/articles written by the faculty members.
2. The committee should consist of faculty members and also practitioners representing different specializations. The members on the committee can be even from other Management Institutions.

3. It should be mandatory for all the faculty members to seek the approval of this committee before sending the paper for publication.
4. The committee will scrutinize the relevance of the topic, theoretical model used, concepts used, methodology, sample size, techniques of analysis, presentation etc. in the presence of a required quorum of the members.
5. The committee should also examine plagiarism.

We should propose this suggestion to various Associations of the Management Institutions in India.

Readers are welcome to send their views and suggestions.

Dr. D.Y. Patil
Editor-in-Chief

* With permission from the author