

The hindrances and stress faced by research scholars during lock down period of pandemic in respect of their research work with reference to selected universities in Chennai

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Abstract: *Research scholars, who perform most research at educational institutions, are vital national resources who assist us in achieving our development goals. Because of the covid – 19 pandemic, university education, including in India, has been disrupted. The closure of various educational institutions has a wide-ranging impact on higher education, and we are already seeing a significant shift in how and who has access to it. On the other hand, the impact of the pandemic on research and research personnel in higher education institutions could take years to manifest. The global research landscape among colleges has been dramatically transformed by COVID-19. As a result of the epidemic and educational institutions closed, millions of research scholars urged to migrate from a physical to an online learning environment (Work from home). They are also affected mentally and physically due to continuous pandemic lockdown.*

Key Words: *University education, COVID – 19, Pandemic, Migrate, Landscape.*

1. INTRODUCTION :

The research scholars struggled to adjust when entire countries and economic blocks shut down owing to COVID-19. It had to adapt to a society where people were reluctant to leave their houses or have any kind of interaction with strangers especially researchers were the hardest hurt by the epidemic due to shutdowns and quarantine requirements. As a result of this major shift away from classrooms in many areas of the world, universities have had to fast adapt to virtual and digital methodologies, and academics have been impacted more in terms of data collection for their research work. Many people predict that the adoption of online distance learning will continue after the pandemic. This study looks on how research scholars tackle the situation of pandemic which had never come before as well as the organizational, technological, and environmental issues they may face during the COVID - 19 pandemic. The following is the article's outline. It begins with the identified problem and a study of the literature on how the continuous lock down was the major hindrances of the research work of the scholars. The research techniques used in this study will next be explained. The analysis, debate, suggestion, and conclusions are then presented.

2. IDENTIFIED PROBLEM:

The issues that research scholars encounter and the factors that influence their research activity during pandemic lockdown are investigated in this study. This study tries to determine why research scholars experience stress during their research period and what factors cause them to postpone their research. This study helps to determine how scholars handle their research projects as well as their family's living expenses while their stipends are delayed. Is there any impact on research academics during the lockdown period from the new era of research paradigm?

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

- (Mullenbach L, et al. (2021). In comparison to the general population, university students are increasingly recognized as a vulnerable demographic, struggling from higher levels of anxiety, depression, substance misuse, and disordered eating. As a result, when the nature of their academic experience drastically alters, such as during the COVID-19 epidemic, the load on this susceptible population's mental health is amplified.
- (Petrie, 2020). The skills and exposure to information and communications technology (ICT) for both educators and learners may influence the implementation of appropriate and relevant pedagogy for online education. Unified communication and collaboration platforms like Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom, Canvas, and Blackboard have been used thus far to allow teachers to design educational courses, learning, and skill development courses.

4. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

- ❖ To find out the reflection of continuous lock down on research work of research scholars.
- ❖ To find out the problems faced by research scholars during lock down.
- ❖ To find out the difficulties to receive their stipends.
- ❖ To find the stress faced by the research scholars.
- ❖ To analyse the reasons to extend their research duration period.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY :

The overall sample size was 102, and they were chosen using a standard random sample, snowball sampling technique and stratified random sampling. Both primary and secondary data were used in this investigation. The questionnaire was used to collect information from the respondents. The study relies heavily on primary data. Secondary data was acquired from newspapers, journals, and the internet, among other places. The SPSS 20 software is used to analyse the data. The chi-square test and the percentage approach of data analysis were employed as statistical tools. University of madras, Anna University, VELS University and SRM University has been chosen as selected Universities for this research.

6. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

- ❖ This study is only based on research scholar's perspective.
- ❖ This study is conducted with reference to Chennai district. So, it is difficult to study the problems of research scholars for large population.
- ❖ The sample size is limited to 102 responses due to time constrain.
- ❖ The data is collected only from M.Phil and Ph.D students.

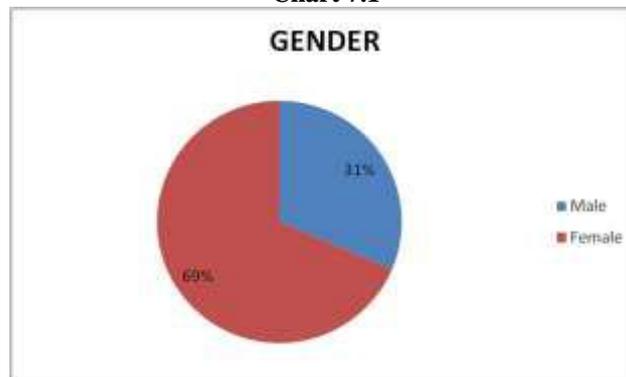
7. DATA ANALYSIS :

7.1 GENDER

Table 7.1

Gender	No of respondents	Percentage
Male	70	68.6
Female	32	31.4

Chart 7.1



INTERPRETATION

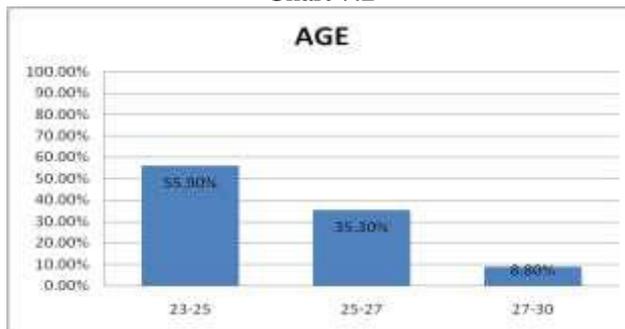
The above chart and table give a clear account that 70 respondents are male and 32 respondents are female. When calculated in percentage male respondents are 68.6% and female are 31.4% respectively. Hence, majority of the male research scholars have respond the questionnaire.

7.2 AGE

Table 7.2

Age	No of respondents	Percentage
23-25	57	55.9
25-27	36	35.3
27-30	9	8.8

Chart 7.2



INTERPRETATION

From the above chart and table, it is clear that majority for respondents fall from the age category of 23-25 with 55.9% and the rest of the respondents are from 25-27 and 27-30 with 35.3% and 8.8% respectively. The study has the maximum respondents of 102 with respect to Chennai city.

7.3 QUALIFICATION

Table 7.3

Qualification	No of respondents	Percentage
M.phil	16	15.7
Ph.D	86	84.3

Chart 7.3



INTERPRETATION

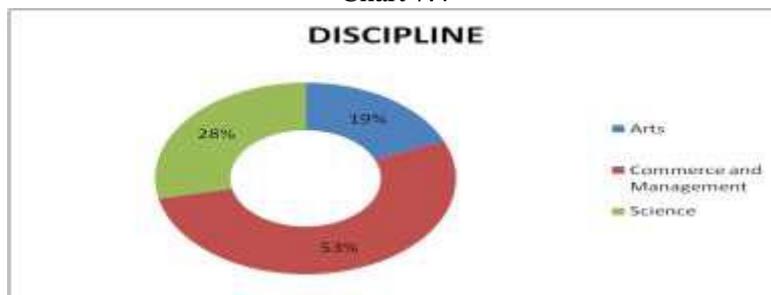
The above chart and table show that the majority of respondents are Ph.D research scholars with 84.3% followed by M.Phil students with 15.70%. Therefore, it is clear that all the respondents are showing interest in doctoral program.

7.4 DISCIPLINE

Table 7.4

Discipline	No of respondents	Percentage
Arts	19	18.6
Commerce and Management	54	52.9
Science	29	28.4

Chart 7.4



INTERPRETATION

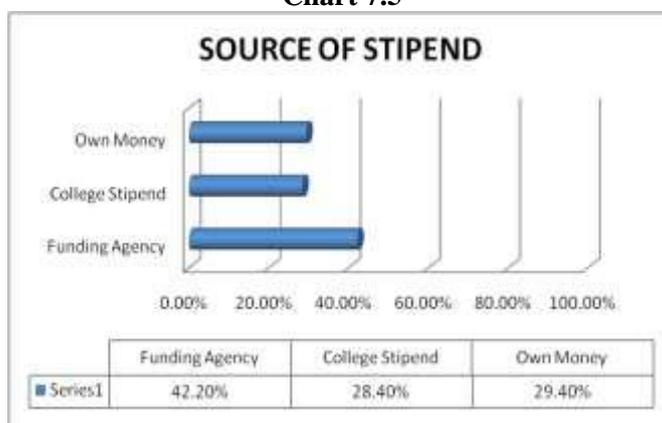
The above chart and table give a clear account that 54 respondents are belongs to commerce and management discipline and 29 respondents are belongs to science stream followed by 19 respondents are from arts stream. When calculated in percentage commerce and management respondents are 52.9% followed by science and arts are 28.4% and 18.6% respectively.

7.5 SOURCES OF STIPEND

Table 7.5

Sources of stipend	No of respondents	Percentage
Funding agency	43	42.2
College stipend	29	28.4
Own money	30	29.4

Chart 7.5



INTERPRETATION

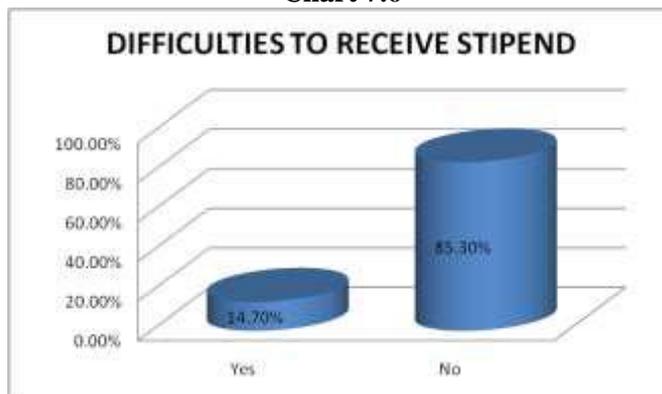
In case of sources of fund for stipend, from the above chart and table, majority of the research scholars are receiving the funds from government funding agencies through Junior Research Fellowship scheme and the percentage is 42.2%. Some of respondents are doing research with college stipend and the percentage is 28.4%. Some of them use their own funds to do research work and the percentage is 29.4%.

7.6 Do you have any difficulties to receive your monthly stipend?

Table 7.6

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Yes	15	14.7
No	87	85.3

Chart 7.6



INTERPRETATION

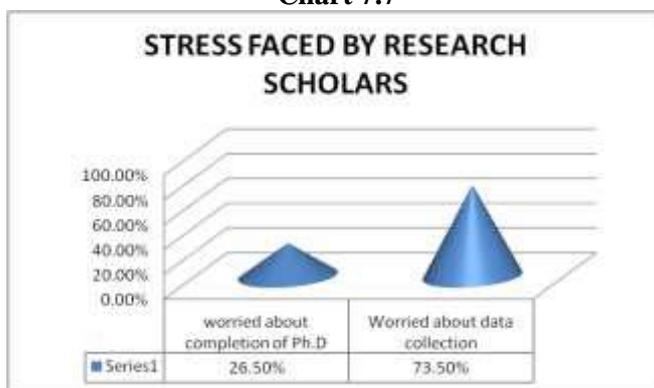
The study was aimed to identify the difficulties faced by the research scholar in respect of their monthly stipend. According to above chart and table, it is clearly mention that many of the research scholars did not face any difficulties to receive their stipend for their research and the percentage for the same is 85.3%. Some the research scholars faced problem while receiving stipend in terms of lag payment and the percentage for the same is 14.7%.

7.7 Stress faced by research scholars during their research period due to lock down

Table 7.7

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Worried about completion of Ph.D	27	26.5
Worried about data collection (Primary data)	75	73.5

Chart 7.7



INTERPRETATION

Majority of respondents gets worried about primary data collection for their research and the response percentage is 73.5% and some of the respondents worried about completion of Ph.D and the response percentage is 26.5%

8. HYPOTHESIS TESTING:

H₀ = There is no significant relation between problems faced by research scholars during lock down and the extension of research period.

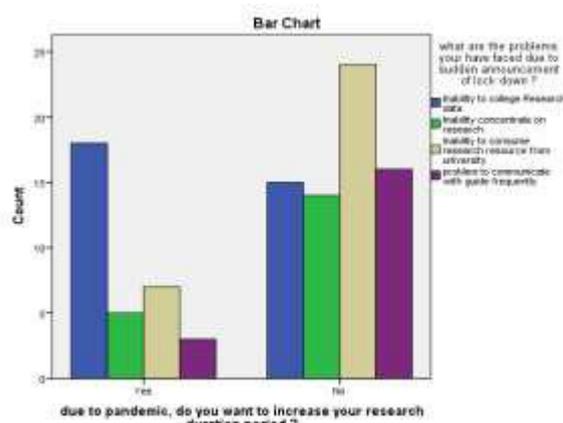
H₁ = There is a significant relation between problems faced by research scholars during lock down and the extension of research period.

RESULTS

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	11.477 ^a	3	.009
Likelihood Ratio	11.351	3	.010
Linear-by-Linear Association	9.850	1	.002
N of Valid Cases	102		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 6.15.



Chart

INTERPRETATION

The significant value 0.009 is less than 0.05 which is significant at 5% level. It infers that the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted. There is a significant relation between problems faced by research scholars during lock down and the extension of research period. Hence, due to problems of inability to collect data, inability to communicate with their guide etc., Research scholars want to extend their research duration period.

9. CONCLUSION:

Despite the fact that many researchers were unfamiliar with using work from home research and learning activities prior to the epidemic lockdown, they were found to be even more excited about their study and tried to exhibit their progress on a regular basis. Research Scholars devote a great deal of time and effort to their studies. Govt. and Authorities should not only focus on research excellence, but also on the conditions of research scholars, as this will aid in the outcome. An environment that is conducive to study will help in the prevention of unethical actions in academia.

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