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TRUE RESEARCH: CATALYST FOR CHANGE AND PROGRESS

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Abstract

Development is akin to progress. Societies which have the dream to progress focus on conducting and implementing researches which are responsive to development. Research and development are the inseparable partners to nation building. It is believed and safer to say that the progress of a nation does not happen by sheer chance. It is the sustaining motivation and concentration on what to research plus the conscientious use of available and right resources that determine progress. Once research results are generated, concerned agencies need to assess which ones should be utilized or commercialized to propel growth and development. Conducting true research is oftentimes costly both financial and otherwise, but the results might also be overwhelmingly satisfying. Developing and instilling a culture of research to the citizenry is a good national agenda to every country. Since research is educative, education has to be research-oriented. People's clamor for a better society may be answered partly or wholly through the conduct of true research. Indeed, if research will be taken sincerely and honestly, good or excellent outputs may be produced that could fuel development to proceed. It is a big challenge to all nations especially the developing and underdeveloped economies, to use their limited capital in pursuing priority-based research agenda. Wise use of meager resources through genuine research is a real exponent of developmental change.

Keywords

Community Development, Human Growth, Progress, Quality Research, Responsive Inquiry

1. Introduction

Some people may say why conduct research? After all by sheer though remote chance, development and progress may still happen even without doing any scientific investigation. But under normal circumstances such a happening is very unlikely to happen. It is so because development is something which proceeds from a careful and tedious investigation and planning. Planning without investigating is not enough and making investigation without planning is futile. Both processes need to be present or used in tandem with each other in order for developmental changes to evolve. Good research actions necessarily proceeds from a well-studied research priority areas.

Time and again people from the academe have been continually encouraged to focus on their research undertakings in carefully identified priority areas. Identifying the real priority areas means ably conducting the truly needed research. Doing a research without a clear focus on what area or areas need priority is very costly. These costs do not only pertain to financial matter but relate to time and labor losses as well. In fact, it would even seem more advantageous to hold in the meantime conducting a research than proceeding to pursue a worthless exercise. What is terribly more saddening is the increasing concern that most current published research findings are false (Ioannidis, 2005). If these were true to some reports, then there is really a need to consider both the subject matter to be researched as well as the issue on veracity of the output.

Research priority areas are well-chosen subject matter based on the current demand and need of society (McClean et al., 2007). A well-founded research priority areas spring from one or a combination of multiple sources such as but not limited to actual observation and social scanning. Although, conducting a research investigation based on priority areas is not an assurance of a successful output, the undertaking is however rightly focused as to what is proper to be done. Meanwhile, in an inter-country R&D efficiency analysis (Sharma & Thomas, 2008), across a group of 22 developed and developing nations showed that some countries were more efficient in utilizing their resources for research, while the others are not.

Altman (2002) has pointed out that research in the medical science, for instance, is done to advance scientific knowledge that lead to the advancement in the treatment or prevention of illnesses or diseases. Every research project should methodically continue from prior research and

feed to upcoming researches. Thus, a true or good research means that it can serve not only the present time but also serve as a good reference for the future.

In a patenting research in Soete & Wyatt (2005) using foreign patenting as an internationally-comparable output indicator suggests that foreign patent data may provide a very useful tool indicator of science and technology output. The above research modality has been backed up in Li et al. (2012) on the research performance of universities in mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Their developmental strategy has shifted from 'quantity' to 'quality'-orientedness. It points out that fewer research outputs but with good quality is much better than having more research production but with lower research quality. Indubitably, the former instance is much preferred because it would likely rouse community development and progress. This article presents some clear-cut discussions on the importance of conducting a true, quality or good research for the positive envisioning of current and future researchers.

1.1 Objects of Research

Research has a multi-tiered goals. One of the simplest reasons why one conducts an inquiry or inquisitive examination is when he wants to comply only with the requirements of his present work or area of assignment. Here, research is conducted just to satisfy the routine obligation of his job. This kind of research objective is highly passive and has no direct or indirect impact that could lead to the solving of a problem, or designing and inventing of something new. Such result might be a creation of a duplicate thing, inferior clinical procedure or seemingly-vague scientific process. Research of this kind will only serve to fill the empty spaces of the display cabinets of their own offices or agencies.

A second and more expedient object of research addresses the existing demands that are confronting the present time. Labelled popularly as applied researches, are done in order to solve the real problems of our time and immediate surroundings. In the universities as well as to other people working in the academe, the grant of academic patents is a good measure of one's inventiveness (Meyer, 2003). Having an invention patented or a work of art copyrighted is a clear evidence that one has come up with a useful research.

However, there may be highly advanced inquiries not necessarily based on prevailing problems of the community but which are considered also as objects of research. Here, the research undertaking is aimed to further scientific theories for better understanding or forecasting of natural or other phenomena. Research of this nature belong to the so-called fundamental, pure or basic

research (Wikipedia, 2018). Other people may not readily appreciate the essence of doing basic research because of the low connection of the output to its immediate use. Its role pertains to the generation of knowledge or theory which may have a proximate or remote social value.

2. Methodology

This research paper gathered the necessary information through a combination of data mining technique from reputable internet sites plus the input of ideas and discussion from the author. Specific topics and their chronology of presentation were based on coherence of concept, practical significance and exercise of intellection.

3. Discussion of Issues

3.1 Requisites of a good research

What a good research is could have different views and perspectives. But the following points have been found very worthy and essential:

1. *Technically and financially workable.* A good research does not only speak about anything that comes into the mind of the researcher. Rather, it should be one which is anchored on technical feasibility and fiscal viability. Imbibing this factor means doing the right thing based on practical limits. Here, research considers economy and appropriate skills as equally important considerations. Though limiting the coverage of research for reason of pecuniary restriction is anti-development, doing so is still acceptable if the investigation has a semblance of utility. For highly exceptional research projects, it would be a good idea for the researcher to seek assistance from some external funding sources. Relatedly, Payne & Siow (2003) has reported that increasing research funding, e.g. \$1 million or its equivalent, results in 10 more articles and 0.2 more patents but are not necessarily of high quality research output.
2. *Truly addresses the issues of the time.* The test of a good research might be its utility or usefulness to the existing needs of today or the demands of the future. The essence of true research is its ability to serve or meet the exigencies of the moment. Research has to be responsive to the pressing current or future needs, issues, and concerns of society. Doing research just for the sake of having something to be worked on or make oneself busy is a waste of time, money, effort and other valuable resources. Mclean et al. (2007) stressed that

researchers should pay more consideration to the needs and priorities of society. This means that users as well as scientists should be actively involved in setting out broad research priorities. Laying out the most relevant and practical research priorities would set off the agency's resources to a generally more productive use. In another scenario, Pardey & Craig (1989) believe that decisions concerning public sector agricultural research appear to be driven by both supply and politically-mediated demand forces. In other words, politics, fortunately or unfortunately, is an influential factor affecting priority setting.

3. *Adds something new to the existing body of knowledge.* True research does not duplicate things which have been done, known, or practised already. Rather, it aims to find out something new and original, or at least modify the existing one or improve what is currently in use. Novelty of a research activity is an uncompromising quality which every research proponent should always put in mind. This is the thing which makes research a highly dynamic scientific venture. Discovering something new, whether a thing, a method or practice, is the ultimate goal of research undertaking (quora.com). The sense of true research is its potential contribution to the established and useful mass of learning. However, it may be emphasized that a good research is procedurally replicable for purposes of confirmation.

3.2 The Truth about Research

Research is one of the few human undertakings where the output cannot be predictably laid out with certainty. In other words, research may be considered as an intelligent and scientific approach of doing a trial and error action. But if done willfully and accurately, the conduct of research may evolve positive changes in many things, ranging from advancement in tools, equipment, and practices used by society. One should be consistently reminded though, that aside from being beneficial, a good research should also be scientifically replicable using a similar object or condition. The matter on replicability gives anyone the full opportunity to compare or crosscheck the previous finding.

It might be well to mention that according to Lazenbatt & Elliott (2005), the quality of a research study is a key issue. The popular use of a grounded theory in nursing research, for example, is now focusing on the quality of studies using this research method. This is done because there has been emerging problems that raise questions about the quality of research or soundness of the research findings.

3.3 Research for Whom?

A research is conducted for the ultimate benefit of mankind. The purpose for which a research is being done is for the benefit of the present and future generations. Doucouliagos (2010) pointed out that research plays an important role in underpinning a country's economic and social life. He emphasized that universities are at the centre of the research and human capital generating process. Research conducted to destroy humanity or the environment is not the kind of research that is advocated in this sense. True research should be for good and not for evil action or intention.

Well-established research and development projects of advanced countries oftentimes focus on addressing the current issues and concerns of their societies. As earlier stressed, this type of research identifies the actual or existing problems of their communities and act toward finding out solutions to such trepidations. Primarily, a more practical research action is problem-oriented because it tries to identify the real difficulty and expeditiously act on those setbacks.

3.4 Research as a function of corporate and nation-building.

Without true research, a country's developmental progress is far to be attained. There are innumerable examples of success stories whose origin was due to the conduct of true research. In Narin et al. (1987), the study investigated the links between patent and patent citation, and other indicators of corporate performance such as changes in sales and profits, R&D budgets, scientific productivity, and expert opinions of company technological strength. It is worthwhile citing that countries with well-established research undertakings have generally become more developed and progressive. Anyone would readily see the enormous difference of countries with well-developed research undertakings vis-a-vis those states which do not care about it.

3.5 What should be done?

Colleges, universities, research institutions, research advocates, and scientists should take a lead in coming up with valuable researches. These could be done through the sensible effort and genuine support of societal leaders. True research is never a waste, even if at the outset there is seemingly no semblance of feat. There is no assurance of a good outcome after the first attempt, or even the second, third or never at all. What is important is that there is a serious attempt or initiative to come up with a result based on a desired purpose on the part of the researcher or agency. An article in Pavitt (1998), disclosed that patent citations in published research with collaborative publications between schools and industry, offer a rich and rewarding sources of information on how university research contributes to technical change. So that it is really a must for colleges and

universities whether public or private, to make research as one of their undiscountable missions as an institution of higher learning.

4. Conclusion

The nature, purpose and extent of technical requirement needed to pursue a good research undertaking highly varies. There are researches whose output do not have yet any immediate use at the present time (basic research). While there are some studies or experiments which are done in response to an existing problem, issue or concern (applied research). To the utilitarian mind, the product of conducting true research exceeds its overall expenses both material and otherwise. Conducting true research may be extremely tedious and time-consuming, but it need not be very costly. On the whole, it is not the total research cost or length of conducting the investigation that is more important in true research. But it is the overall impact, merit or worthwhileness of the outcome which is controlling. In other words, research should be more inclined to being result-oriented rather than time- or cost-oriented. The coverage of this paper pertains or limits only to the theoretical aspect on how a true research should be conducted, thus appropriate knowledge and skills to further its end is needed.

5. Recommendation

In as much as doing research is costly in time, effort and money, research advocates should bear in mind that every time they think of or conduct scientific inquiry, it should be linked up constantly to the issue of human growth and community development. In doing so, the valuable and oftentimes scant resources could be put into intelligent use. Wise use of material and non-material assets in conducting the right and priority researches can be considered a dedicative act to attain progress. Bringing progress forward is the essence of true research, and thus should be the concern of every responsible researcher. Under our existing condition, it seems that prioritizing our research efforts to issues/concerns as responses to the felt needs and problems of our society, appear to be of prime urgency.

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