Chapter 2
Universities Under Study
CHAPTER 2

UNIVERSITIES UNDER STUDY

INTRODUCTION

The importance of research can not be overlooked in a university environment. Research publication in the university is a major or more significant indicator of academic staff productivity. It may be pointed out that research publication in any field of specialization provide current information for growth, progress, development and an improved society. Research publication is very significant; hence staff promotions are based entirely on it. It increases the social prestige of the academic staff status to the rank of a professor irrespective of his or her gender. Research publication encourages hard work and fills in the gaps of previous researches and create avenue for future investigation.

Research is one of the pivotal points on which university education rests. Others include teaching and community service. Research consists of a study and investigation to discover facts, insights and other elements central to the matter at issue. It is so critical and crucial that it determines the quality of any higher institution. It constitutes a key criteria for the promotion of academic staff and, as such, it is highly regarded, sought after and requires high level participation and quality work.

From the above background, this study seeks to investigate research output in central universities of Northern India. These are as follows:

- Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh
- Allahabad University (AU), Allahabad
- Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

The Aligarh Muslim University is a residential academic institution which was established in 1920. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, a great reformist of his age, who felt the need of modern education for Muslims, started a school swayback in 1875 which later became a college under the title of "Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College" and ultimately became a university. This is a premier university comes under central government. The President of India appoints the Vice Chancellor.

This is a premier centrally funded university with several faculties and maintained institutions of higher learning. It provides excellent opportunities for instruction and research in a wide spectrum of disciplines. It has 12 faculties namely:

- Agriculture Science
- Arts
- Commerce
- Engineering & Technology
- Law
- Life Sciences
- Management Studies & Research
- Medicine
- Science
Universities under study

- Theology
- Unani Medicine
- Social Science

Research is normally conducted in the departments of study. Each department has facilities for research. The research is either funded by the university with existing facilities or is sponsored by various national and international agencies.

There is a strong international flavor to the university, attracting students from all over the world, especially from West Asia, Africa and South East Asia. A unique feature of this university is its residential character, where students reside together irrespective of their caste, creed and color. This enables the students not only to study but also to live together, to participate in extra-curricular activities and become part of a co-operative community of work and service. The characteristic feature of Aligarh Muslim University, which makes it distinct is that it does not only provide modern education but also grooms the personality of the students. Aligarh Muslim University has given extra ordinary list of Artists, Poets, Politicians, Bureaucrats, Doctors, Scientists, Academicians and Engineers who reached the zenith of their profession.

The University currently has about 28000 students on its rolls, most of whom stay in 16 halls of residences with 70 hostels. It employs about 1400 academic staff, and about 6000 non-teaching staff. On an average, about 500 foreign students come to study at AMU every year. The University has a campus spread over 467.6 hectares of land.

ALLAHABAD UNIVERSITY

Allahabad University is a popular educational institution for higher learning situated in Allahabad in the state of Uttar Pradesh, which forms part of the Indian subcontinent.

Allahabad University is in fact regarded as the fourth modern university in India and was established on 23rd September 1887. This
university is recorded for having a sound academic tradition and it also has several major achievements to its credit. When it was established, the university began as an affiliating and examining body for graduate and post-graduate programs with a class orientation in different branches of learning. It also had the responsibility of secondary education. In 1951 the university recognized certain local institutions as Associated Colleges to impart degree in various programs. After four decades of its re-organization it has achieved fame both nationally and internationally.

The demand for the 'central status' of the university was raised during the centenary celebrations of the university. Against the proposition of the Bill introduced in the Parliament in December in 2004 to recognize the university as an 'Institution of National Importance', both the houses of the Parliament duly passed 'The University of Allahabad Act 2005' in the month of May in 2005.

The subjects in which Faculty of Arts offer degrees and perform research at the university are Arabic and Persian, Anthropology, Education, Geography, English and Modern European Languages, Music and Performing Arts, Medieval and Modern History, Philosophy, Hindi, Physical Education, Psychology, Political Science, Urdu, Sanskrit, Journalism and Mass Communication. The subjects in which the Faculty of Science offer degrees and conduct research programs are Biochemistry, Chemistry, Botany, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Defense and Strategic Studies, Photography, Physics, Electronics and Communication, Physics, Mathematics, Zoology, Statistics, Bioinformatics, Biotechnology and Home Science. There is also a faculty of Law, which offers several judicial programs.

The university has showed remarkable progress in the 118 years of its existence. Beside the regular undergraduate and post graduate programs the university also offers a list of professional programs in
Business Management, Law, Electronic and Tele-communication, Medicine, Human Resource Development, Educational Training, Journalism and Mass Communication and many more. A number of vocational programs have also been provided in the graduate degree programs in accordance with the UGC Scheme for vocational courses. Several courses are also offered by the Institute of Professional Studies (IPS) and have been designed accordingly to the emerging requirements for specialized personnel in various arenas.

The following are the different faculties offering degrees and performing research at the University.

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Science
- Institute of Inter Disciplinary Studies

The Institute of Inter-disciplinary Studies (IIDS) has also been developed by the University to pursue a non-conventional paradigm for research activities. This renowned university has also taken advantage of the rapid advances and expansion of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

**BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY**

Banaras Hindu University is ranked among the top universities of the country in the field of academic and research output. The University has made a name even at international level in a number of areas of Science, Social Science, Technology, Medicine, and Agriculture etc. The university has seamlessly meshed research and teaching.
Banaras Hindu University was established in the year 1916 by Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. BHU played a crucial role in the independence movement and developed into a great center of learning in India. BHU has contributed a lot in the development of the country by producing a number of scholars, artists, scientists, and technologists who have helped in building a modern India with their individual contribution to the society. This university has two campuses, 3 institutes, 16 faculties, 140 departments, 4 advanced centers and 4 interdisciplinary schools.

Faculties & institutes in BHU are as follows:

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Ayurveda
- Faculty of Commerce
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Management Studies
- Faculty of performing Arts
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Social Science
- Faculty of Visual Arts
- Faculty of Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vigyan Sankay
- Institute of Agriculture Sciences
- Institute of Medical Sciences
Universities under study

- Institute of Technology

Since 2005, BHU has joined hands with as many as seven foreign universities to provide a fillip to research education. These universities include McMaster University, Canada, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA, and University of Limoges, France.

BHU today has nearly twenty thousand students including 2500 research scholars and 650 foreign students from 34 nations, under one roof who are pursuing different academic programmers at this campus as well as the newly established Rajiv Gandhi South Campus. It has an array of foreign students from more than 30 countries across the world studying under the same roof. In 2004 BHU established the International Centre to incorporate collaboration with Foreign Universities / Institutions, Foreign scholars visiting India as Visiting Lecturer / Professor, Alumni Association of Foreign Students, Admission of Foreign Students etc.

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

The University of Delhi is the premier university of the country and is known for its high standards in teaching and research and attracts eminent scholars to its faculty.

The Delhi University came into being as a result of an act past by the then Central Legislative Assembly in 1922. When the university had first commenced its operations it had started out with a modest 3 colleges operating under its management. The three colleges, St. Stephens College, Hindu College and Ramjas College, together comprised of around 750 students and two faculty sections related to the arts and science departments.

In the year 1933, the Delhi University campus was shifted to the Visceral Lodge Estate which became its permanent residence till date.
Even today the main campus of the Delhi University, which includes the central administrative offices, examination offices and the sports complex, is situated at the Visceral Lodge Estate.

The University has established several research and development centres under the Board of Interdisciplinary Studies to promote interdisciplinary research on socially relevant issues and better understanding and interaction among the different academic departments and Business, Industry and National Research Laboratories.

The University of Delhi has a glorious tradition of research and advanced studies in various disciplines. There are many Departments of Special Assistance and Centres of Advanced Study of the UGC in the various faculties of the University.

Developing Countries Research Centre (DCRC) was set up by the University of Delhi on 20 April 1993 under the Board of Interdisciplinary Programme. With this step, a formal structure came into being bringing together teachers and researchers from various Departments and Colleges of the University of Delhi who are engaged in studying problems of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America in a comparative perspective.

Over the last even decades the University has grown into one of the largest universities in India. At present, there are 14 faculties, 86 academic departments and 79 colleges spread all over the city, with about 20,000 students.

FACULTIES

- Applied Social Sciences & Humanities
- Arts
- Ayurvedic & Unani Medicine
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA

Jamia Millia Islamia is another important university in Delhi. The Jamia University is renowned all over Asia for West Asian and Islamic Studies. Jamia Millia Islamia, an institution originally established at Aligarh in United Provinces, India. In 1920 became a Central University by an act of the Indian Parliament in 1988. In Urdu language, Jamia means 'University', and Millia means 'National'. The institution is situated at Jamia Nagar off the main Mathura Road and has only one campus. The Jamia University was started during the Non Cooperation Movement. The nationalist leaders established the Jamia University, to boycott the then British run institutes. The center has developed in to an important center of education now.

The story of its growth from a small institution in the pre-independence India to a central university located in New Delhi—offering integrated education from nursery to research in specialized areas—is a
saga of dedication, conviction and vision of a people who worked against all odds and saw it growing step by step.

In the list of the Faculties, i.e. Education, Humanities & Languages, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Engineering & Technology, one more Faculty - Faculty of Law, was added in 1989. Many new courses and programmes at UG and PG levels have since been added. It has 29 departments and 121 courses are offered at the graduation and post-graduation levels. While the number of students registered with the University is almost around 14,000, the strength of the teaching faculty is 612. The University also has some foreign students from different countries in its rolls.

The faculties for learning are as follows:

- Faculty of Humanities and Languages
- Faculty of Social Sciences
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Engineering and Technology
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics

Besides its seven faculties, the Jamia has a number of centres of learning and research, like Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC), Academy of Third World Studies (ATWS) etc. The Jamia is also marching ahead in the field of Information Technology (IT). Apart from this, the Jamia has a campus wide network which connects a large number of its departments and offices.
Among other things Jamia is today primarily known for its mass communication courses. The Mass Communication Research Centre was established in 1982 in collaboration with York University, Toronto (Canada) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Since then the premier centre has produced a large number of professionals who have gone on to script their own success stories in the media sector.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

Named after the first prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is a premier institute of learning in the country. The University is located in southern New Delhi, the capital of India and the seat of the Indian Government. Jawaharlal Nehru University was established through an Act of Parliament in 1969. The objective behind the establishment of the institution was to have an educational body that promoted the study of principles of national integration, social justice, secularism, and democratic way of life, international understanding and scientific approach in solving the society’s complex problems. The university, over the years has attained the status of the seat of educational excellence in the country.

JNU is not only one of the most prestigious universities in India but also in Asia. International league tables produced in 2006 by The Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) confirmed JNU’s place among the world’s top 200 universities and ranked 183rd in the THES league table for 2006.

JNU’s main focus is research and the postgraduate courses that it offers are therefore research-oriented. There are some 4000 students pursuing different courses at the university. The staff strength is around 500. The University has been organized into nine schools (these nine schools can have centers of their own) and four independent special centers.
Almost every school is organized in a way to meet the basic instinct of academic, social and cultural plank of students' life. Besides the central library every center provides the quotidian library facility to save time and space, an auditorium to have cultural social show-off, conference hall to have brainstorming session to take place. Research lab is reached out to every interested research scholar according to their area of interest under the aegis of grand standing renowned faculties of school.

**Schools & Centers in BHU are as follows:**
- School of Arts and Aesthetics
- School of Biotechnology
- School of Computer and Systems Sciences
- School of Environmental Sciences
- School of Information Technology
- School of International Studies
- School of Language Literature and Culture Studies
- School of Life Sciences
- School of Physical Sciences
- School of Social Sciences
- Special Centre for Molecular Medicine
- Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies
- Centre for the Study of Law and Governance

Several Centres in these Schools have been declared by the UGC to be Centres of 'Excellence'. These are Centre for Historical Studies, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Centre for Political Studies, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, all in the School of Social Sciences. In addition three Science Schools--School of Physical Sciences, School of Life Sciences and School of Environmental Sciences have also received the UGC recognition as Centers for Excellence.
REFERENCES

1. http://www.amu.ac.in/
2. http://www.allduniv.ac.in/
3. http://www.bhu.ac.in/
4. http://www.du.ac.in/
5. http://www.jmi.nic.in/