

Attitude towards Research among Doctoral Scholars in Tezpur University of Assam

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Abstract

Research is a systematic and systematic process which aims to discover reliable and valid knowledge, facilitating theory development and promoting academic advancement. This study examines the attitude of doctoral scholars towards research in Tezpur University of Assam. The key objectives were to assess the overall attitude levels and analyse variations based on gender, academic discipline, and year of experience. Using a descriptive survey design, the study sampled 100 doctoral scholars through disproportionate sampling. Data were gathered using the standardized Attitude Scale by Dr. Vishal Sood and Prof. Y.K. Sharma. The analysis employed descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation) and inferential statistics (t-test and one-way ANOVA). Findings reveal that a majority of scholars (88%) possess moderately to highly favourable attitudes toward research, while only 12% exhibit unfavourable attitudes. Gender-wise, both male and female scholars show similar attitude levels, with minor variations. ANOVA results confirmed no significant differences in attitude based on gender, academic stream, or research experience. Thus, it can be concluded that doctoral scholars in Tezpur University generally hold a positive outlook on research, with consistency across demographic subgroups.

Keywords:

Attitude, Research, Doctoral Scholars, ANOVA, Gender, Discipline, Tezpur University,.

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Introduction

In the modern world, the doctoral scholars' attitudes are valued above their backgrounds and level of education. In knowledge-based cultures, success and advancement are largely dependent on having a good attitude toward research. A mental state with relation to a manner of thinking or being is called an attitude. An individual's likes or dislikes for an object are represented by their attitude, a hypothetical construct. Any researcher's attitudes are crucial to their performance and ability to produce useful results. A positive and dedicated attitude toward research is necessary for the demanding intellectual pursuit of a Doctoral programme. A Doctoral scholar's whole experience and the quality of their work can be greatly affected by their attitudes, verdicts, and perceptions of research. Gaining insight into these attitudes is essential to improving the academic environment because it enables universities to identify the elements that inspire students, remove obstacles, and improve the environment for research. Because of its outstanding academic reputation, Tezpur University draws students from a wide range of intellectual, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds. Because of this diversity, there is a rare chance to investigate how attitude towards research differ and what influences these variations. Studying Tezpur University's doctoral scholars' attitude towards research is important for the school as a whole as well as for generalizable findings.

Significance of the study

Research is the cornerstone of knowledge advancement, offering vast opportunities for growth, innovation, and discovery within any discipline (Kuhn, 1962). As Doctoral scholars' education increasingly emphasizes original contributions, scholars often experience a complex interplay of emotions, ranging from excitement and curiosity to apprehension and anxiety (Lovitts, 2001). Understanding these intricate attitudes and anxieties is crucial for creating a supportive and stimulating environment that nurtures Doctoral scholars' research potential and propels knowledge forward (Wenger, 1998). By acknowledging the emotional nuances of research, we can tailor training, policy, and practice to optimize Doctoral scholars' experiences, foster their intellectual growth, and facilitate the production of high-quality research (Brew, 2001). Ultimately, research drives India's development trajectory by informing policy, fostering innovation, promoting equity, and ensuring environmental sustainability (Planning Commission of India, 2013). Doctoral scholars, particularly those in doctoral programs, exhibit a notable interest in research, as it enables them to contribute meaningfully to their field, address pressing societal challenges, and push the boundaries of existing knowledge (Golde & Walker, 2006). Advanced research training is integral to their academic journey, equipping them to undertake independent projects, develop critical thinking skills, and cultivate expertise in their chosen area

of study (Walker et al., 2008). By investing in Doctoral scholars and supporting their research endeavours, we can harness the power of research to create a brighter, more inclusive future for India and beyond.

Review of literature

The researcher reviewed various books, journals, research reports and several websites avail the information the attitude of doctoral scholars. Prashad et al., (2021) conducted a study on attitude towards research among the research scholars of science and arts stream. Descriptive survey method is used in the proposed work. Data were collected with a scale called Attitude Scale towards Research (Sood and Sharma). The sample of this study consists of 205 research scholars from science and arts stream who are in their doctoral program in private and government universities within the district of Prayagraj. Responses were analysed by applying mean, standard deviation, and t- ratio. From the first result it was observed that the female of science stream has more research attitude than the male. Sivagami et al., (2020) conducted a study on the research attitude among PhD scholars in higher education institutions of Thanjavur district. The present descriptive study aims to describe the attitude among the research scholars of Thanjavur District with proposed minimum of 306 respondents through proportionate random sampling method. The study had adopted standardized tools which are high risk for developing mental health issues among the PhD scholars. The study found that more than half of the respondent's 48 percent had medium level of academic attitude dimension of scholar attitude. The level of frustration and worry increase day by day. Devanesam (2017) oversees a study on the attitude of PhD scholars towards their doctoral programme. The present study has been conducted among 48 PhD scholars belong to various research centres in all over Tamil Nadu to find out the attitude towards their research work. The researcher used a self-constructed tool and the data collected was analysed and interpreted to draw inference using appropriate statistical methods like mean, standard deviation, t-test, and F-test. The result shows that there is no significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to their Sex, Research centre, Mode of registration, Year of registration, Sex of the Supervisor, Marital status and the scholars who have children. Also, it is revealed that there is no significant difference between the attitude of PhD scholars towards their research work with respect to their Educational Qualification, teaching experience, Subject in which they do their research, type of institution and age. Kushwaha (2014) oversees a study on attitude towards research among the research scholars. The present study examined the attitudes of research scholars towards research. What are doctoral scholars feeling and thinking about research and what their attitudes are? This study consist of 265 samples and purposive sampling method has been used to collect data and all the questions have been analysed through percentage and appropriate non parametric

test Chi-Square Test. The findings shows that research attitude of the doctoral research scholars is very high.

Objectives of the study

- A. To study the attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University.
- B. To compare the attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University with regard to their Gender.
- C. To compare the attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University with regard to their Stream of study.
- D. To compare the attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University with regard to their Year of experiences.

Hypothesis of the study

- i. There exists no any significance difference on attitude of PhD Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University based on their-Gender
- ii. There exists no any significance difference on attitude of PhD Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University based on their streams.
- iii. There exists no any significance difference on attitude of PhD Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University based on their year of experiences.

Delimitation of the study

- a) The study will be delimited to the Doctoral scholars only.
- b) The study will be conducted in Tezpur university of Assam only.

Research methodology

The investigator adopted Descriptive Research Design as the research aims to assess the attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards research and the researcher collected data from the doctoral scholars across diverse background who are again geographically confined within the Tezpur University of Assam. About 100 respondents were selected through Disproportionate sampling technique. In the present investigations the data was collected with the help of the Attitude Scale towards Research (ASTR-SVSY) by Vishal Sood and Y.K Sharma (2012) tool.

Data analysis and interpretation:

Analysis and interpretation of objective A

Objective A: To study the attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University.

In order to study the level of the attitude of Doctoral scholars towards research, the total scores obtained were classified into seven categories namely: ‘Extremely Favourable’, ‘Highly Favourable’, ‘Moderately Favourable’, ‘Unfavourable’, ‘Highly Unfavourable’, ‘Moderately Unfavourable’, ‘Extremely Unfavourable’. The findings of the objective no. 1 have been discussed in the following Table 1.

Table 1

The table shows the percentage of Doctoral scholars of Tezpur University having different levels of attitude towards research

SL NO.	Range of z-scores	Frequency	% of respondent	Level of Attitude Towards Research
1	+2.01 and above	13	13%	Extremely favourable
2	+1.26 to + 2.00	7	7%	Highly favourable
3	+0.51 to +1.25	27	27%	Above Average favourable
4	-0.50 to +0.50	41	41%	Moderately favourable
5	-0.51 to -1.25	2	2%	Unfavourable
6	-1.26 to -2.00	6	6%	Highly Unfavourable
7	-2.01 and below	4	4%	Extremely Unfavourable
TOTAL		100	100%	-

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From the above Table 1, it has been observed that majority of the research scholars i.e. 41% possesses moderately favourable level of attitude towards research, 13% research scholars have extremely favourable attitude towards research, 7% out of the total sample have highly favourable attitude towards research, 27% have above average favourable attitude towards research, 2% possesses unfavourable attitude towards research, 6% have highly unfavourable attitude towards research, while 4 % have extremely unfavourable attitude towards research.

Analysis and interpretation of objective B

Objective B: To compare the attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University with regard to their-Gender.

Attitude of doctoral scholars towards research in Tezpur university with regard to their gender.

The level of attitude has been classified into seven grades categories namely: ‘Extremely Favourable’, ‘Highly Favourable’, ‘Moderately Favourable’, ‘Unfavourable’, ‘Highly Unfavourable’, ‘Moderately Unfavourable’, ‘Extremely Unfavourable’. Two genders, male and

females are considered in the research which totals to 100 sample size. The level of attitude scores of the research scholars at Tezpur University with regard to their gender is tabulated in Table 2

Table 2

The table shows the percentage of Doctoral scholars in Tezpur University having different levels of attitude towards research with regard to their gender

Range of z-scores	Frequency		% of respondent		Level of Attitude Towards Research
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
+2.01 and above	6	7	12.5%	13.46%	Extremely favourable
+1.26 to + 2.00	3	4	6.25%	7.69%	Highly favourable
+0.51 to +1.25	16	11	33.33%	21.15%	Above Average favourable
-0.50 to +0.50	18	23	37.5%	44.23%	Moderately favourable
-0.51 to -1.25	0	2	0	3.85%	Unfavourable
-1.26 to -2.00	3	3	6.25%	5.77%	Highly Unfavourable
-2.01 and below	2	2	4.17%	3.85%	Extremely Unfavourable
TOTAL	48	52	100%	100%	-

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From the Table 2, it has been observed that 12.5% males and 13.46% females possess extremely favourable attitude towards research, 6.25% males and 7.69% females have highly favourable attitude towards research, 33.33% males have above average favourable attitude towards research and so do 21.15% of females , moderately favourable attitude have been shown by 37.5% males and 44.23% females, no male possess unfavourable attitude towards research whereas 3.85% females possess unfavourable attitude towards research, 6.25% was shown by males meanwhile 5.77% females shows of highly unfavourable attitude towards research and 4.17% of males and 3.85% of females possesses extremely unfavourable attitude towards research.

Difference between the level of attitude towards research between males and females in Tezpur university

Null hypothesis (i): There exists no any significance difference on attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University based on their-Gender

To test the significance of comparison between the mean scores of levels of attitude towards research between the male and female PhD scholars, the statistical calculation t-test was used. The mean, standard deviation, standard error deviation, degree of freedom and ‘t’ value are given in the table 3.

Table 3

Comparison between the level of research attitude between the male and female scholars

	Sex	N	M	SD	SED	Df	‘t’	Remarks
Attitude Towards research	Female	52	170.98	18.15	3.75	98	0.04	Not significant @0.05 level
	Male	48	170.83	17.58				

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From the above Table 3, it is seen that the M is 170.98 for females, with SD=18.15 based on a sample size of 52. For males, the mean is 170.83, with a standard deviation of 17.58, based on a sample size of 48, the df=98, and 't' value is 0.04. After differentiating both females and males in the context of the level of attitude of PhD scholars towards research, it was discovered that the calculated value of 't' is 0.04. The value is not statistically significant at a 0.05 significance level for a two-tailed test, given that df is 98 because the calculated value of 't' (0.04) is lower than the table value of 1.96 at a significance level of 0.05. Hence, the Null hypothesis states that there is no significance difference on attitude of PhD Scholars towards Research at Tezpur University based on their-Gender is accepted.

Analysis and interpretation of objective C

Objective C: To compare the attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University with regard to their Stream.

Attitude of doctoral scholars towards research in Tezpur university with regard to their educational stream.

The level of attitude has been classified into seven grades categories namely: ‘Extremely Favourable’, ‘Highly Favourable’, ‘Moderately Favourable’, ‘Unfavourable’, ‘Highly Unfavourable’, ‘Moderately Unfavourable’ and ‘Extremely Unfavourable’ respectively. The

students of different educational streams of Tezpur University namely, Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences, Engineering and Management Sciences are considered in the research which totals to 100 samples. The level of attitude scores of the research scholars at Tezpur University with regard to their educational stream is tabulated in Table 4.

Table 4

The table shows the percentage of Doctoral scholars in Tezpur University having different levels of attitude towards research with regard to their educational stream

SL NO.	Rang e of z-score s	Frequency				% of respondent				Level of Attitude Towards Research
		HS S	Sci.	Engi.	M.Sc i.	HSS	Sci.	Engi.	M.Sci.	
	+2.01 and above	3	3	4	3	8.33%	12%	14.81%	25%	Extremely favourable
	+1.26 to + 2.00	1	3	2	0	2.78%	12%	7.40%	0	Highly favourable
	+0.51 to +1.25	13	3	7	4	36.11%	12%	25.92%	33.33%	Above Average favourable
	-0.50 to +0.50	16	14	9	3	44.44%	56%	33.33%	25%	Moderately favourable
	-0.51 to - 1.25	1	0	1	0	2.78%	0	3.7%	0	Unfavourable
	-1.26 to - 2.00	0	2	3	1	0	8%	11.11%	8.33%	Highly Unfavourable
	-2.01 and below		0	1	1	5.56%	0	3.7%	8.33%	Extremely Unfavourable
			25	27	12	100%	100%	100%	100%	-

TOTAL									
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Source: Field Survey, 2025

From the Table 4, it has been found that the highest percentage of Doctoral scholars (56%) with a moderately favourable attitude towards research belongs to the Science stream, while the lowest percentage (0%) is observed in the Management Science stream under the highly favourable attitude category.

Difference on attitude of doctoral scholars towards research in Tezpur university based on their educational stream

Null hypothesis (ii): There exists no any significance difference on attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University based on their-educational stream

To test the significance of comparison between the mean scores of levels of research attitude based on their educational stream, the statistical calculation ANOVA used. The mean squares, sum of squares, degrees of freedom and 'F' value are given below in the Table 5.

Table 5

ANOVA results of attitudes of Doctoral scholars towards research with respect to their educational stream

ANOVA						
Source of variables	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Interpretation
Between Groups	315.111	3	105.037	0.325	0.807	Not significant @0.05 level
Within Groups	31021.079	96	323.136			
Total	31336.190	99				

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From the above Table 5, it is inferred that, the ANOVA results show that the sum of squares between groups and within groups are 315.111 and 31021.079 respectively and mean squares are 105.037 and 323.136 respectively. Here, the F- ratio value 0.325 with p value (0.807) is found to be less than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significant. Hence the null hypothesis "there is no significant difference on attitude of PhD Scholars towards Research at Tezpur University based on their-educational stream" is accepted. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is no

there is no significant difference in the research attitudes of PhD scholars with respect to their educational stream.

Analysis and interpretation of objectiveD

Objective D:To compare the attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University with regard to their Stream.

Attitude of doctoral scholars towards research in Tezpur university with regard to their-year of expertise.

The level of attitude has been classified into seven grades categories namely: ‘Extremely Favourable’, ‘Highly Favourable’, ‘Moderately Favourable’, ‘Unfavourable’, ‘Highly Unfavourable’, ‘Moderately Unfavourable’ and ‘Extremely Unfavourable’ respectively. The students of different educational streams of Tezpur University namely, Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences, Engineering and Management Sciences are considered in the research which totals to 100 samples. The level of attitude scores of the research scholars in Tezpur University with regard to their educational stream is tabulated in Table 6.

Table 6

The table shows the percentage of Doctoral scholars in Tezpur University having different levels of attitude towards research with regard to their year of expertise

SL NO.	Range of z-scores	Frequency				% of respondent				Level of Attitude Towards Research
		1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year	4 th year	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year	4 th year	
1	+2.01 and above	2	4	2	6	9.09%	19.05%	8.33%	18.18%	Extremely favourable
2	+1.26 to +2.00	2	3	2	0	9.09%	14.29%	8.33%	0	Highly favourable
3	+0.51 to +1.25	5	4	8	12	22.72%	19.05%	33.33%	36.36%	Above Average favourable
4	-0.50 to +0.50	10	9	9	13	45.46%	42.86%	37.5%	39.39%	Moderately favourable
5	-0.51 to -1.25	1	0	0	0	4.55%	0	0	0	Unfavourable

6	-1.26 to -2.00	2	0	1	1	9.09%	0	4.17%	3.03%	Highly Unfavourable
7	-2.01 and below	0	1	2	1	0	4.76%	8.33%	3.03%	Extremely Unfavourable
TOTAL		22	21	24	33	100%	100%	100%	100 %	-

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From the Table 6, it has been found that the majority of Doctoral scholars in Tezpur University demonstrate a moderately favourable attitude towards research, with this category having the highest percentage across all years. In contrast, the least number of scholars fall under the extremely unfavourable and unfavourable categories, indicating that very few scholars hold a strongly negative attitude towards research.

Difference on attitude of doctoral scholars towards research in Tezpur university based on their educational stream

Null Hypothesis (iii): There exists no any significance difference on attitude of Doctoral Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University based on their year of experiences.

To test the significance of comparison between the mean scores of levels of attitude towards research based on their year of experiences, the statistical calculation ANOVA used. The mean squares, sum of squares, degrees of freedom and 'F' value are given in the Table 7.

Table 7

ANOVA results of attitudes of Doctoral scholars towards research with respect to their educational stream

ANOVA						
Source of variables	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Interpretation
Between Groups	319.554	3	106.518	0.339	0.797	Not significant
Within Groups	30163.196	96	314.200			
Total	30482.750	99				

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From the above Table 7, it is inferred that, the ANOVA results show that the sum of squares between groups and within groups are 319.554 and 30163.196 respectively and mean squares are 106.518 and 314.200 respectively. Here, the F- ratio value 0.339 with p value (0.797) is found to be more than 0.05 level of significant. Hence the null hypothesis "there is no significant difference on attitude of PhD Scholars towards Research in Tezpur University based on their-year of experience" is accepted. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is no significant difference in the research attitudes of PhD scholars with respect to their year of experience.

Result & Discussion of the study:

- In the present study it is found that the Doctoral scholars have a general positive attitude towards research. This result is in line with the research findings of Alghamdi (2014). Papanastasion, (2005), In contradictory to the result Butt and Shams (2013) research findings found students having a negative attitude towards research.
- In the present study, it is found that there is no significant difference in overall research attitude between male and female Doctoral scholars. This result aligns with the research findings of Muppidi and Thomas (2023), who reported that nearly 90% of doctoral students exhibited a favourable attitude towards research, with no significant gender-based differences. However, this contradicts the findings of Qasim (2021), who observed that female Doctoral scholars in the science stream had a more positive research attitude compared to their male counterparts.
- In the present study, it is found that there is no significant difference in attitude towards research between Doctoral scholars from different academic streams. This result aligns with the findings of Sharma and Bansal (2022), who reported uniformity in research attitudes across disciplines among doctoral scholars. However, this is contradictory to the findings of Iqbal (2019), who observed that Doctoral scholars from science streams showed higher research attitude scores compared to those from humanities and social sciences. In the present study, it is found that there is no significant difference in attitude towards research among Doctoral scholars with different years of research experience. This finding is in line with the study by Banerjee and Kulkarni (2020), who reported consistent research attitudes among doctoral scholars regardless of their research experience. However, this contradicts the findings of Nair (2018), who found that research attitude tends to improve with increasing years of research engagement among Doctoral scholars.

Conclusion:

This study aimed to understand the attitudes of Doctoral scholars in Tezpur University of Assam towards research, and the findings highlighted a generally positive research culture with some

room for improvement. By addressing the identified challenges and building on the strengths revealed through this study, universities can foster an even more encouraging and dynamic research environment—one that empowers Doctoral scholars to become lifelong learners, innovative thinkers, and valuable contributors to the advancement of knowledge and society.

Educational Implications:

Measuring and studying the attitude towards research among Doctoral scholars is crucial for understanding how motivated and prepared they are to engage in academic research. This study used standardized tools to assess research attitude, which can be helpful not only in identifying scholars' readiness but also in improving research engagement across doctoral programs.

- The findings of this study can be useful at the university level to identify and address the gaps in scholars' attitude towards research and promote a more positive and productive research environment.
- This study can assist in designing workshops, training programs, and academic support services tailored to improve research aptitude and motivation among Doctoral scholars.
- The review will help university authorities, research supervisors, and academic mentors in guiding scholars more effectively by understanding their specific needs, challenges, and perceptions related to research.
- The findings of the present study will be beneficial in formulating policies and strategies for research capacity building among doctoral students.
- The study is also helpful in promoting a research-oriented academic culture, which can influence not only the scholars themselves but also future batches of research students.
- The results of the study will support scholars in building confidence, sustaining research interest, and contributing meaningfully to academic development, thus shaping their academic and professional future.

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