

Report of the Committee on Ph.D. Programs in State Universities

Introduction

Research and development have become an inalienable part of modern society. The criticality of education, higher education in particular, for socio-economic development of the nation is well recognised. Study and research leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or Ph.D. is the highest academic or professional degree awarded by the universities in all countries across the globe. It is the highest academic degree any scholar can aim to earn. The term doctor of philosophy in Greek refers to 'the pursuit of in-depth knowledge'. In Latin the term doctorate refers to 'to teach' or a 'teaching license.' In the middle ages all academic disciplines outside theology, medicine and law were used to be referred to under the broad heading of 'philosophy' and hence the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or Ph.D.

Objectives

The Ph.D. programs, in general, have a two-fold objective, viz., for knowledge growth, discovery, invention, innovation, creativeness, etc., relevant to the scientific, social and economic development of the nation and to qualify and equip the scholars to join academic profession.

A Ph.D. holder, in most countries, qualifies to teach the subjects in the specified field. The degree has become a requirement for careers in academic institutions like universities, colleges and other institutions of higher learning. The doctoral training is considered a form of an apprenticeship for the future teachers and a prerequisite for pursuing academic careers. A doctorate is almost universally accepted as the standard qualification for an academic career. In Indian universities, until seventies few academic staff held doctorates, but in recent years it has become a mandatory prerequisite and research oriented education gained its importance.

Requirements

The requirements for joining and obtaining a Ph.D. degree vary. Most universities typically require possession of a master's or equivalent degree for admission into Ph.D. program, successful completion of minimum amount of coursework in the relevant subject and sometimes undertaking advanced courses, obtaining prescribed number of credits, training in research methodology, submission of peer-reviewed publications in the areas of specialization, submission of a substantial body of original research in the form of a thesis or dissertation consisting of original academic work, adjudication of the dissertation by a panel of examiners appointed by the university, defense of the dissertation before a panel of expert examiners or oral examination, etc. A Ph.D. scholar is required to pursue research on the campus under the close supervision of research guide appointed by the university.

The requirements also include residency, study and research for a specified period, preliminary evaluation to assess the scholar's breadth of knowledge of the discipline, comprehensive examination, constitution of doctoral Committee to advise the scholar, demonstration of scholarly distinction and ability to advance knowledge through independent research through seminar presentations, etc. Each university prescribes rules and regulations that need to be fulfilled to get admission and to obtain the degree of doctor of philosophy.

Constitution of High Power Committee

Of late there have been many criticisms in several quarters on the Ph.D. programs being offered by some of the universities in A.P. They include violation of norms, non-conformance to rules and regulations, fall or dilution of standards of research, declining quality of research, offering research programs in which they do not have expertise or specialization and facilities, etc. There is also extensive press coverage about the unhealthy practices being resorted to in the admissions into Ph.D. programs, representations to the Hon'ble Chancellor and Government on the declining

standards of Ph.D. programs in some of the state universities. There are also criticisms that some of the universities are moving away from the quest of 'knowledge' to the quest of 'money'. The problem got compounded with the expansion of higher educational institutions and increase in the number of universities, some of them began to offer research programs leading to Ph.D. in their anxiety to 'expand' without proper and necessary infrastructure - faculty, laboratory, library, etc.

It has also come to the notice of the state government that some universities in the state are violating the UGC Regulations, admitting a large number of scholars into Ph.D. programs without relevant faculty or without the existence of the concerned departments and offering Ph.D. programs in modes like 'Part-time', 'Off-campus', etc. Such criticisms have become more and continuous in recent times in the state. It is in this context, the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) constituted a four-member High Power Committee with the following members:

- 1) Prof. R. Rama Murthy,
Professor of Zoology (Retd.) and former Vice-Chancellor,
SV University, Tirupati
 - 2) Prof. P.V.S. Rama Rao,
Professor of Physics (Retd.) and former Registrar,
Andhra University, Visakhapatnam
 - 3) Prof. D. Ravindra Prasad,
Professor of Public Administration (Retd.) and former Director,
Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies,
Osmania University, Hyderabad
 - 4) Prof. P. Jayaprakash Rao, Convener
Professor of Chemistry, Osmania University and
Vice-Chairperson, APSCHE, Hyderabad
- Prof. P. Jayaprakash Rao has subsequently been appointed as the Chairperson of APSCHE by the Government of A.P.

Terms of Reference

The Committee has been assigned the following terms of reference:

- 1) To analyse the information on Ph.D. admissions and evaluation procedures in different universities vis-à-vis the UGC Guidelines;

- 2) To suggest appropriate steps to improve the situation keeping in view the sanctity of the Ph.D. programs; and
- 3) To suggest steps to be initiated in respect of irregular admissions, if any, made by the universities

Methodology

The Committee adopted several methods to study and analyse the admission and evaluation procedures keeping in view its terms of reference. Firstly, the Committee studied the UGC Regulations relating to the Ph.D. programs and their applicability to the universities in the state.

Secondly, the APSCHE, on behalf of the Committee, collected the relevant information from the universities on admission procedures, eligibility for recognition of a supervisor, regulations for recognition of institutions as research centers, number of Ph.D. scholars a supervisor can guide, duration of Ph.D. programs, course work, seminar system, progress monitoring, evaluation methods including conduct of viva-voce examination, etc. The information was processed and comparative statements prepared and reviewed.

Thirdly, the Committee undertook a study of some of the reports appearing in the press on different aspects of the Ph.D. programs offered by some of the universities in the state.

Fourthly, the Committee analysed the representations received by the Hon'ble Chancellor, the State Government, APSCHE, etc. on the issue of Ph.D. admissions in the universities.

The Committee also took into consideration the personal experience of members of the High Power Committee who have had long association with Ph.D. and other research programs not only in the universities of the state but outside as well.

The Committee learnt, while its deliberations were on, the constitution of a separate Committee to examine the allegations regarding irregular admissions made into Dravidian University. In the context of this development, the Committee refrained from examining deeply the third point in the Terms of Reference in detail to avoid duplication of time and effort. The Committee feels that whatever recommendations made on irregular admissions in one university will be applicable equally to all such other universities in the state and the government may draw conclusions from those recommendations for initiating action.

On behalf of the Committee, APSCHE sought information from the universities on the regulations and other details including the admissions made into Ph.D. programs during the last few years, department-wise number of research supervisors, etc. Despite the best efforts, the information received has some gaps, but, however, the Committee could analyze the available information satisfactorily to prepare this report.

Meetings

The Committee met thrice on the following dates:

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|------------------|----------------------------------|
| - First Meeting | - 6 th September 2010 |
| - Second Meeting | - 2 nd November 2010 |
| - Third Meeting | - 21 st March 2011 |

In between the meetings, the members were in regular contact through mails and telephone discussions on various aspects of the terms of reference of the Committee. The personal meetings of the members on different occasions were also utilized to discuss on various aspects of Ph.D. programs in the state universities.

UGC Regulations

The University Grants Commission formulated '**UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulation, 2009**'. These regulations came into effect from June, 2009 with their publication in the Gazette of India. Broadly, the regulations deal with the following:

General

- No university should conduct M.Phil./Ph.D. programs through distance education mode.

Eligibility Criteria for Supervisor

- Universities shall lay down the criteria.
- The university shall lay down and decide on an annual basis a predetermined and manageable number of M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars for admission based on the number of supervisors.
- The university should widely advertise both on website and through other means the available number of seats for admission each year.
- A supervisor should not have more than eight Ph.D. scholars and five M.Phil. scholars at any given point of time.

Procedure for Admission

- Admission to M.Phil. and Ph.D. programs should be through an entrance test; university may decide separate terms and conditions for those who qualify in UGC/CSIR (JRF) examinations/ SLET/ GATE/Teacher Fellowship holders/M.Phil. degree holders.
- Entrance test should be followed by an interview.
- Due attention to be paid to national/state reservation policy.

Allocation of Supervisor

- The department should allocate the supervisor formally based on specialization of supervisors and research interest of the scholars.

Course Work

- Course work should be for a minimum period of one semester. It should include a course on Research Methodology which may include Quantitative Methods and Computer Applications and reviewing published research work in relevant field.
- Course work may be carried out in sister departments/institutes within or outside the university wherever necessary.

Evaluation

- Scholars should make a pre M.Phil/Ph.D. presentation in the department.
- Ph.D. Scholars should publish one research paper in a refereed journal before submission of the thesis.
- The thesis should be evaluated by at least two experts of whom one should be from outside the state. The university has the freedom to have examiner from outside the country.
- There should be a viva-voce examination.
- After the declaration of Ph.D., the universities need to submit a soft copy of the thesis to the UGC within 30 days.
- The university should issue a provisional certificate certifying that the degree has been awarded in accordance with the Regulations of the UGC.

The Committee feels that universities are autonomous institutions with freedom to formulate and implement the policies and regulations in relation to the academic programs they offer. In the context of mounting criticism on the declining quality of Ph.Ds as well as other aberrations in some universities, the UGC formulated and issued the Regulations for the first time. The Regulations are aimed at improving the quality of Ph.D.

programs and to bring certain amount of uniformity in the admission, course work and evaluations processes in the universities in the country.

Conformity to UGC Regulations

The universities are expected to adopt the UGC Regulations and customize them to specific and particular needs of the university. The Committee, therefore, undertook an analysis of the Regulations of different universities in the State to understand their conformity to UGC Regulations. The universities, particularly the older ones, have formulated the Regulations broadly in conformity with the UGC Regulations. Some universities seem to have revised their Regulations based on the UGC Regulations. It was also found that some universities have formulated the Regulations before the publication of UGC Regulations and as such did not revise them incorporating all components of the new UGC Regulations. For instance,

- Every Ph.D. scholar before submission of thesis should publish a research paper in a refereed journal. Such stipulation does not seem to have been incorporated in the Regulations of all universities.
- Most universities have course work as mandatory component of Ph.D. programs, though it is not clear, whether research methodology and quantitative methods and Computer Applications are part of the course work.
- In most universities there is broad conformity in terms of number of scholars a research supervisor can guide and the duration of Ph.D. programs.
- The UGC Regulations do not prescribe any criteria for recognition of teachers as research supervisors and the universities are expected to formulate the regulations. There are wide variations in the criteria laid down by the universities. Broadly the criteria adopted by the universities relate to holding a Ph.D. degree, publication of research papers, teaching and research experience,

etc. There are variations in the criteria between teachers of the university and members of other institutions.

Admissions without Departments

A cataclysmic aspect of the Ph.D. programs in some universities is the admission of scholars in disciplines despite the fact that there is no teaching departments in the relevant disciplines. Obviously, the scholars are put to the mercy of the supervisors recognized by the university from other institutions - far and near. The scholars are exclusively dependent on the external supervisors. In all such cases it is doubtful whether the scholars get the needed guidance from their supervisors as they are not part of the university and in several cases stay at long distances for any personal contact.

Large scale Admissions without adequate Faculty/Supervisors

A closely related issue in some universities appears to be admission of a large number (thousands in some cases) of scholars in some departments without reference to their internal capacity in terms of eligible supervisors. To overcome this problem they resort to the practice of recognizing supervisors from other institutions thereby inflating the number of research supervisors, to enable them to admit large number of Ph.D. scholars. Such large scale admissions have been made by some of the universities under the guise of what they call “off-campus part-time mode”. These admissions were made through the so-called study centres recognized by the universities which are spread over throughout the state and also outside the state.

The recognition of large number of teachers as research supervisors from institutions outside the university to accommodate hundreds and thousands of Ph.D. applicants makes one question the doubtful intentions of the university apart from violating the spirit of the UGC Regulations and the importance and the value of a Ph.D. degree.

Recommendations

After going through the guidelines and regulations for Ph.D. programs of various universities and observing the Ph.D. admissions recently made in some of the universities, the Committee makes the following recommendations. These recommendations embody the UGC regulations and are the essential ones to be incorporated into the detailed regulations to be prepared by each of the universities. It is expected that these recommendations would help maintain and improve standards and values of Ph.D. programs offered in the Universities.

1. General

- 1.1. All universities should adopt and strictly adhere to the UGC Regulations both in letter and spirit.
- 1.2. No University shall conduct Ph.D. programs through distance mode or any similar system such as off-campus, etc.
- 1.3. The University should not offer Ph.D. Programs unless the subject under consideration is taught and research is carried out in the concerned Department in the University for at least 3 years.
- 1.4. Scholars can pursue full-time or part-time research leading to Ph.D. either in University Departments or in University-recognized research centres with supervisors working in those Departments or Centres.
- 1.5. A full-time scholar should reside in the same place where the university or university-recognized research centre is located. An in-service candidate can register as part-time scholar. For part-time scholars, the guidelines regarding the minimum length of service for admission, the minimum hours of work per week the scholars have to put in, etc. have to be prescribed by the respective Departmental Research Committees.

2. Research Centers

Research is a collaborative effort and there is need for partnerships between institutions of higher learning and research to share the fruits of their efforts and to move jointly by pooling resources / laboratories, faculty, library and other facilities. One way to develop such partnerships is that the universities recognize the institutions of research based on stipulated criteria and allow these institutions to offer Ph.D. programs. The universities should award the degrees.

2.1. University-recognized research centers can be :

- (i) Departments in colleges falling under the jurisdiction of the university; and
- (ii) Government or reputed private laboratories/institutions within the State of Andhra Pradesh.

2.2. The University can recognize an Institution or a Department in any Institution as a recognized research centre as per the guidelines prepared by it only in subjects which are offered in the University.

2.3. It is expected that the academic bodies in the university take utmost care while preparing the guidelines and recognizing Institutions / Departments as research centres so that at no point of time there would be any scope for criticism of any kind of dilution of standards.

3. Research Supervision

The scholars, who are admitted to the Ph.D. programs, mostly come directly after completing their post-graduate studies without sufficient background in research methodology and sometimes even in the specific area proposed for research. They need, therefore, to work under the guidance and supervision of experts in the specific field.

3.1. Eligibility to be a Ph.D. Supervisor:-

- (i) Three years of research experience after obtaining Ph.D.
- (ii) At least six papers published in refereed journals for science faculty and at least four research papers published in refereed journals / articles or chapters in ISBN books in other faculties.
- (iii) Of the research papers / articles published, at least two should have been published after obtaining Ph.D. from outside his/her own Ph.D. work.
- (iv) A Teacher/Scientist either working in a University Department or in a university-recognized research centre and recognized as a research supervisor by the university alone can guide scholars for Ph.D.
- (v) A candidate registered for Ph.D. from a university - recognized research centre, except in the case of recognized National Research Institutions, must have a co-supervisor from the concerned Department in the University.
- (vi) Once in five years a review of the academic growth and performance of the supervisor should be undertaken. The university may prescribe guidelines for such review.

3.2. Scrutiny of applications for recognition of Supervisors:

- (i) The applications should be scrutinized initially by the Departmental Research Committee, which should consist of Chairperson-BOS, Head of the Department, two senior recognized supervisors from the Department.
- (ii) The final scrutiny should be conducted with Faculty Research Committee which may consist of Dean of the Faculty, two senior recognized research supervisors of the concerned

faculty including one from any related or relevant disciplines, and Chairperson of BOS of the concerned Department.

3.3. Number of Scholars with a Supervisor:

- i. The UGC guidelines June 2009 suggest that a supervisor may have eight Ph.D. scholars at any given point of time. However, the Committee is of the opinion that the number be restricted to six (whether full-time / part-time / joint supervision) keeping in view of effective supervision and academic excellence in the pursuit of research.
- ii. Not more than two Ph.D. scholars should be registered with a supervisor per year.
- iii. A research supervisor of one university should not be the guide for a scholar registered in another university except in the case of joint supervision for multidisciplinary research with the prior approval of the Universities / Institutions concerned.

4. Admission Procedures

Procedures need to be clearly formulated to ensure that right candidates with proper attitude and orientation to undertake research leading to Ph.D. are admitted. The procedures should provide for transparency in admission.

4.1. Admission into Ph.D. Programmes:

- (i) Ph.D. admissions should be made through an Entrance Test followed by an interview as per by the UGC guidelines. At the time of interview the candidate should submit the theme of his / her proposed research topic along with the research design.
- (ii) Candidates with a minimum of 55% marks (50% in the case of SC/ST candidates) in the subject concerned in the qualifying examination are eligible to take the Entrance Test.

(iii) Candidates qualified in UGC/CSIR test or any other National-level test for JRF, M.Phil degree holders and FIP (UGC) candidates may be exempted from the Entrance Test.

4.2. All the criteria mentioned under Para 4.1 are applicable whether a candidate pursues the program either in full-time mode or part-time mode.

4.3. The rules of admission should apply to all international candidates also.

5. Registration

5.1. Ph.D. registration validity period:-

The duration of Ph.D. registration period should be five (5) years for full time and six (6) years for part-time scholars. Thereafter the registration should be cancelled and the scholar should have to take re-registration.

6. Coursework

Scholars admitted to Ph.D. programs should be equipped properly before they start working on their research projects. They need to be provided training in research methodology, quantitative methods, and advanced knowledge in the areas proposed for research. This requires that they should undergo coursework mandatorily before they embark on the Ph.D. work.

6.1. Pre-Ph.D. Courses:-

(i) Scholars who are admitted to Ph.D. programs should have to appear and pass the pre-Ph.D. examination. The course work must include : -

(a) Research methodology

(b) Broad field relating to the topic focusing on theory, literature review and developments in the related discipline / thrust areas

(c) Quantitative methods and Computer Applications

- (ii) The scholars should take the pre-Ph.D. examination within one year from the date of registration.
- (iii) As part of the course work, every scholar should undertake a review of published literature on the research related subject/theme.
- (iv) Scholar should make a seminar presentation on the research topic including relevance of the subject/theme, methodology proposed, the contribution to theory, etc.
- (v) The review of research and seminar presentation should be evaluated by the Departmental Research Committee. The Scholar may incorporate changes suggested to strengthen the research. If the Committee is not satisfied, the scholar should revise the research work as well as the presentation as per the inputs / guidelines suggested by the Committee.

7. Seminar Presentations

It is essential that Ph.D. scholars need also to be equipped with communication and presentation skills. This requires that they should periodically make presentation of the results of their research work in the Department. It enables them to get feedback from the peers and other experts which help the scholars evaluate the outputs of their work and to make corrections as needed.

7.1. Every scholar pursuing Ph.D. work should make a presentation of his/her work in a seminar in the Department regularly every three months. By the time the scholar submits his/her thesis, he/she should have given a minimum of ten seminars in the Department.

7.2. Every scholar pursuing Ph.D. should attend research seminars / conferences held by the parent or other Universities/Institutes and by the time he/she submits thesis, he/she should have attended at least two such seminars/conferences of which at least one should be in other University/Institute.

8. Monitoring Research Progress

Research should be undertaken on right lines so that precious time and effort are not wasted. There is need, therefore, for effective monitoring of the progress through periodic progress reports.

8.1. Progress Reports

- (i) After registration, every scholar should submit a half-yearly progress report through the supervisor to the Departmental Research Committee / Dean of the faculty / other specified authorities.
- (ii) The half-yearly progress report should cover the following aspects
 - (a) The review of literature
 - (b) New data acquired / techniques developed
 - (c) Progress / standardization in research methodology
 - (d) Discussion of the work done including any new findings
- (iii) If a scholar fails to submit two consecutive half-yearly progress reports in time, or the progress made by the scholar is not satisfactory, the Departmental Research Committee may recommend to the University for cancellation of the registration of the scholar.

9. Submission of Dissertation

One of the expected outcomes of the Ph.D. program is preparation and submission of a dissertation for evaluation for the award of the Ph.D. degree.

9.1. Pre-requirements for submission of Ph.D. Thesis :

- (i) When the scholar, after having pursued the research work for the minimum length of period as stipulated in the Rule (at least 3 years from the date of registration), satisfies himself/herself that he/she has carried out sufficient research work and therefore can submit the results in the form of a thesis, he/she should inform this to the Dean of the faculty through his/her supervisor and Head of the Department. Along with this intimation he/she should also submit copies of the summary/synopsis of the research work done by him/her.

- (ii) Consequent upon receiving such intimation, the supervisor should convene a meeting of the Departmental Research Committee which will go through the summary and make an assessment whether the scholar has carried out research work of sufficient quality and quantity. The scholar should present his / her thesis work in an 'open seminar' for getting the feedback and comments which may be incorporated into the thesis, if found suitable.

- (iii) After getting the clearance from the Departmental Research Committee, the scholar prepares for the submission of the thesis. And, for submitting the thesis:
 - a. The scholar should have passed pre-Ph.D. examination.

 - b. The scholar should have published at least one paper in a reputed research journal.

 - c. The Dean of the faculty should certify that the scholar has regularly submitted the progress reports.

- d. The Head of the Department should certify that the scholar has given a minimum of ten research seminars in the Department during his/her period of research work.
- e. The Head of the Department should certify that the scholar has attended at least two research seminars / conferences held in Universities / Institutions with at least one in other University / Institute.

10. Evaluation of Ph.D. thesis:

Dissertation should conform to the criteria of quality, methodology, accepted methods of presentation. In addition, it should contribute to the knowledge. This requires evaluation by experts in the concerned subject before the award is announced.

10.1. The evaluation/adjudication of the thesis should be done by three independent examiners working in the concerned field only, of which at least two should be from outside the State; an examiner may also be from other country.

10.2. Each examiner after examining the thesis submitted by the scholar, will submit a report containing a clear recommendation whether in his/her opinion

(i) the thesis should be accepted and *viva- voce* examination be held OR

(ii) the thesis should be referred back to the scholar for revision, OR

(iii) it should be rejected

10.3. The examiners may be requested to raise relevant questions / clarifications on the subject matter of the thesis.

10.4. The University can take a decision on the thesis based on the three reports according to the following:

Recommendation of Examiners		Decision	
1	2	3	4
Accept	Accept	Accept	Accept
Revise	Revise	Revise	Revise
Reject	Reject	Reject	Reject
Accept	Accept	Revise	Revise
Accept	Revise	Revise	Revise
Accept	Accept	Reject	Send to 4 th examiner
Accept	Reject	Reject	Reject
Accept	Revise	Reject	Revise; send to 4 th examiner
Revise	Revise	Reject	Revise; send to 4 th examiner
Revise	Reject	Reject	Reject

10.5. For revision and resubmission of thesis, the scholar may be given a maximum period of one year from the date of communication by the University.

10.6. The revised thesis should be referred to those examiners who have originally recommended revision.

11. *Viva-voce* Examination

11.1. The *viva-voce* examination of the scholar should be open and should be conducted in the University by a Board comprising of the following members.

Dean of the Faculty concerned/ senior most Professor in the faculty	-	Chairperson
Head of the Department	-	Member
Chairperson BOS	-	Member
One of the Indian Examiners who Adjudicated the thesis	-	Member
Supervisor	-	Member- Convener

11.2. The reports of the external examiners should be made available to the Board for the *viva-voce* examination.

11.3. The viva-voce examination should primarily be designed to test the understanding of the scholar on the subject matter of the thesis, including methodology employed and the scholar's competence in defending his / her theory to explain the observations made in the field of study.

11.4. The scholar should also be asked to clarify any of the points raised by the external examiners / adjudicators in their reports

11.5. The viva-voce Board may on the basis of the unanimous opinion recommend either

a. that the scholar be awarded the Ph.D. Degree

OR

b. that the scholar may appear for the viva-voce examination again after a stipulated time

12. Declaration of Ph.D.:-

12.1 Upon successful completion of *viva-voce* examination and on consideration of the reports of the *viva-voce* Board and the thesis adjudicators, the Vice-Chancellor may approve the announcement of the award of the provisional Ph.D. degree to the scholar. The award of the Degree shall be confirmed by the Executive Council of the University.

12.2 The scholar may publish the thesis, if he/she so desires, only after incorporating the suggestions made by the examiners.

13. Depository with UGC

Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and announcement of the award of Ph.D., the University shall submit a soft copy of the Ph.D. thesis to the UGC within a period of 30 days, for hosting the same on INFLIBNET, accessible to all Institutions / Universities.

Along with the declaration of Ph.D. the University/Institution shall issue a Provisional Certificate certifying to the effect that the Degree

has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations of the University Grants Commission.

14. Irregular Admissions

All admissions into Ph.D. programmes are always provisional. The irregular admissions made in any university may be cancelled following the due procedure.

Andhra Pradesh State Research Board

The Government may establish Andhra Pradesh State Research Board to formulate policies and programs and to oversee their implementation in the universities. The Board should also be responsible to prescribe quality norms, promote Industry - Government - University partnerships and ensure that the Ph.D. programs are conducted in the universities in conformity with the regulations and values from time to time. One of its prime objectives should be to promote research culture in the universities. The Board should periodically assess the human resource requirements of the State in different fields and promote research in those fields to meet the developmental needs. The Government may frame regulations for organizing, financing and working of the Board.

The Board may function within the framework of the APSCHE to facilitate coordination in its working.

Conclusion

The universities as autonomous institutions are responsible for providing quality education and to make available the required manpower for the country's development through innovation and creative contributions. They need to develop self-regulation to maintain and improve the quality and standards in research in general and Ph.D. programs in particular and are not expected to look at some agency to 'guide' them or provide them with 'regulations'. The universities should maintain the sanctity of research programs and achieve excellence. The university teachers and scholars — individually and collectively — should make efforts in this direction.

ANNEXURE

I. Admissions without Departments:

A cataclysmic aspect of the Ph.D. programs in some universities is the admission of scholars in disciplines despite the fact that there is no teaching departments in the relevant disciplines. Obviously, the scholars are put to the mercy of the supervisors recognized by the university from other institutions - far and near. The scholars are exclusively dependent on the external supervisors. In all such cases it is doubtful whether the scholars get the needed guidance from their supervisors as they are not part of the university and in several cases stay at long distances for any personal contact. A few cases are listed below:

- In Dravidian University, admission into Ph.D. programs have been made into as many as 12 departments which do not exist in the university; they include, science subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, etc. The admissions have been made on what the university calls as “off-campus part-time” mode.
- In Rayalaseema University, Ph.D. admissions have been made into departments such as Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, ECE, Pharmacy, etc. which do not exist in the university. The university claims that the scholars are offered guidance by teachers working in other universities / institutions.

II. Admissions without adequate Faculty/Supervisors:

A closely related ethical violation in some universities appears to be admission of a large number of scholars in some departments without reference to their internal capacity in terms of eligible supervisors. To overcome this problem they resort to the practice of recognizing supervisors from other institutions thereby inflating the number of research supervisors, to enable them to admit large number of Ph.D. scholars. As per the data available, a few cases are mentioned below:

- In Dravidian University, a large number of research supervisors (numbers not provided by the university) have been recognized from outside institutions in as many as 30 different subjects. Of these 30 subjects, 12 subjects are not offered at all in the university.
- In Rayalaseema University, in Management programme, only 8 supervisors are from the university while there are 185 are from other institutions; in Computer Science, 7 are from the university and 119 from other institutions; in Commerce, while 2 are from the university 66 are from other institutions; in Mathematics, 2 are from the university and 62 from other institutions. Interestingly, though there are no Engineering Departments in the university, the university has recognized as many as 37 supervisors in ECE, 17 from Mechanical Engineering, 14 from EEE, 14 from Pharmacy, etc., from other institutions.
- In Acharya Nagarjuna University, the university has recognized about 133 supervisors in Biotechnology from outside institutions; in Pharmacy, there is only one supervisor from the university and 77 from other institutions.

III. Large numbers:

Another disheartening feature is the admission of large numbers of scholars, into Ph.D. programs in some universities even though there are either no supervisors or available only in small numbers. From the data available, a few cases are mentioned below:

- Dravidian University has 69 research supervisors in its 18 Departments; in each Department, the number of supervisors varies from one to six only. But, the university admitted a total of 8029 Ph.D. scholars during 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. It is not clear how many of these scholars were admitted into the university campus on regular mode. In 2009-10, another 93 scholars were admitted (which the university mentioned on regular mode in the campus) taking the

total Ph.D. scholars enrolled during the last 3 years to 8122. This number is alarmingly high by any principle and beyond the intellect of the academics to comprehend. Obviously, the university resorted to the large scale admissions into Ph.D. programmes under the guise of what it calls “**off-campus part-time mode**”. These admissions were made through the so-called study centers of the university which are spread over throughout the state and also outside the state.

- In Rayalaseema University, in the department of Computer Science, there are only 7 eligible supervisors working the university, but 287 scholars have been admitted into Ph.D. in 2009-10. In the Management department, there are 8 eligible supervisors in the department, and 331 Ph.D. admissions have been made. Similarly, in the department of Mathematics, there are only 2 supervisors, but 114 Ph.D. admissions were made. All these admissions were made, as per the university, on what it calls “part-time and Extramural category” basis.
- In Acharya Nagarjuna University, in the department of Pharmacy, there is only one research supervisor in the department and 121 scholars have been admitted into Ph.D. during 2008-09, of whom 115 are on part-time basis. In the department of Biotechnology, the university admitted 152 scholars during 2008-09, of whom 140 are on part-time basis.
- In JNTU, Hyderabad, in the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, there is only one research supervisor in the department, but the university admitted as many as 310 Ph.D. scholars in 2008-09 and another 199 scholars in 2009-10. All these scholars, except one, are on part-time basis.

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Report of the Committee on Ph.D. Programs in State Universities



ANDHRA PRADESH STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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