

# EDUCATION PLUS

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**I**ntensive research does not merely encompass exploratory/investigative work done systematically following appropriate methodology and culminating in a thesis for the award of a research degree. It is also a series of interactions between the scholar and the research guide, scientists and authorities in the field of study, participating and presenting research papers in conferences, publishing one's research in peer-reviewed journals, filing patents and executing projects. In each area, much is learnt and gained, for the ultimate benefit of society at large.

Scholars have diverse views on the University Grants Commission's recent guidelines removing the mandatory publication of research papers in peer-reviewed journals before submission of the doctoral thesis. While one retired scientist felt that a scholar spends a substantial amount of time on full-time Ph.D. course work and methodology and the insistence on publishing research papers could lead to lowering the quality of research; another who is currently a professor in Karnataka insists that a candidate should produce a good number of publications not just in UGC-listed journals but also in the best peer-reviewed ones.

**Benefits**

In my own case, the major content of my thesis was published as a monograph from the U.S. and other compo-



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## Why research matters

Publishing research papers in established journals and presenting at conferences has many benefits for a scholar

nents found place in good journals so that, at the of my full-time research degree, I had over a dozen good publications. As writing research papers was inculcated early, I benefitted as an active researcher with papers at the national and international conferences/ journals and through delivering special lectures in reputed universities. Personally, as an entomologist, not only did I conduct research but also interacted with scholars and scientists from diverse backgrounds.

This offered tremendous benefits on various aspects of my work. Hence, students should not be asked to focus only on their thesis; instead they should be encouraged to take up research alongside their primary work.

On the implementation side, there are deemed-to-be-universities in the country that do not want to digress from the original UGC regulation of 2016, which found publishing research papers by the scholars to be beneficial to the student, research guide

and the institution, as they improve the institution's performance in NAAC accreditation or NIRF ranking and the like.

Scholars who are glued to their thesis work do not develop into well-rounded personalities. Think of the able scientists of the country who were also excellent administrators. This was due to the multiple exposure gained in areas apart from their primary research. Therefore, allowing a scholar to focus only on the thesis and not have experience of other research domains may deprive him/her of vital knowledge at a time when the educational world is encouraging interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary exposure.

Views expressed in this article are personal.

The writer is Pro Vice-Chancellor Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (Deemed-to-be University), Chennai.



OFF THE EDGE  
Nandini Raman

**My friend has completed Class 12 and wants to pursue Fashion Technology. Since she has financial issues, ill she get a good job with a diploma? Rahini**

Dear Rahini,

While most careers need a degree to be certified, fashion designing is not so. Upon completion of her diploma, she can intern with some leading fashion and design studios and/or labels. Opportunities are abundant for students who are passionate, hardworking, and dedicated. Creativity and persistence matter the most. After a year, she can find employment across manufacturing factories, exporting units, the fashion industry or even start her own small business and sell her products online.

**I am in Class 10 and want to become an astronaut. What subjects should I choose in Class 11 and which courses should I pursue after school? Benishma**

Dear Benishma,

You will need to do Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Computer Science as your core subjects in Class 11. Start preparing for JEE (Main and Advanced) so that you can apply to

**Find your key**  
Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This career counselling column may help

the best engineering colleges. You could also consider Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST). If you get a good CGPA here, you can apply to ISRO and join the Aerospace Engineering programme. From there, apply for your next course to a university in the U.S. for higher studies. Also, check the prerequisites and the qualifying criteria to become an astronaut at NASA. Through all this, don't forget to focus on your mental stability and physical fitness.

**I have completed B.Tech. Aeronautical Engineering and am interested in doing a Master's in Aerospace Engineering from the U.K. What are the job opportunities after this course? Mohith**

Dear Mohith,

You can consider working as an Aerospace Design Engineer, senior design engineer, project lead, R&D executive, research associate, software engineer aerospace, aviation electrical engineer, flight operations analysis engineer, and so on. India's top recruiters are ISRO, HAL, Jet Airways, Spice Jet, TATA, Indigo, Aeronautical Development Agency, Quest, and Safran

Engineering Services, to name a few.

**I am a Mathematics graduate (2020) and have been preparing for the government exams, but failed to clear the interview twice. I need to support my family and am anxious about getting a job. What are my options? Nitismit**

Dear Nitismita,

Do you know what worked against you in the interviews? The insight will help you prepare well this time. However, how many attempts are you willing to give? You will get a job but, first, identify what you want to do. Start by applying some of the options mentioned below. Make sure the job holds your interest, promises a good earning potential and you fulfill the required criteria. Data Analysis, Business Analysis, Statistician, Teaching, Professor, Mathematician, Banking, Economist, Software Development, and Data Science are good choices.

**Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.**

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to [reduplus.thehindu@gmail.com](mailto:reduplus.thehindu@gmail.com) with the subject line 'Off the edge'.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Study in Sweden**

The Embassy of Sweden in India, the Office of Science and Innovation in New Delhi, in collaboration with and the Nordic Centre India are organising

three Study in Sweden fairs this week. Students can get first-hand information from representatives of leading Swedish universities about the programmes, receive information regarding scholarships, visa opportunities and student life in Sweden. In Bengaluru, the fair will be

held on November 23 (2.00 to 4.00 p.m.) at Hotel Taj Yeshwantpur; on November 24, it will be held at Hotel Trident, Chennai, from (1.00 to 3.00 p.m.) and at Hotel Le Meridien in Hyderabad on November 25 (1.00 to 3.00 p.m.). To register, visit [bit.ly/36m2NCV](http://bit.ly/36m2NCV)

For more information, visit [www.studyinsweden.in](http://www.studyinsweden.in)

motivate others to be Volunteering for a cause close about 12-15 months to Analyst, a Blockchain and careers.