

# A Study of Student Enrollment Scenario For Research Studies In India -2013-2017(With Special Emphasis to Philosophy in Doctorate and Master's In Philosophy Degree)

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## Abstract

*This paper is a foray into the various perspective of education in research related degrees especially for acquiring Ph.D. and M.Phil. degrees and the contribution of women students in research study in India. This study is based on secondary research based on statistical information received from various websites of premier education regulatory bodies such as UGC and AICTE. This study is based on secondary data collected for past four years i.e. 2013 to 2017*

*Various reports and statics has brought an reassuring trend in the education field which shows that a women's access to research education has increased and more and more women research scholars are participating in research fields. This paper is a sincere effort to understand the various changes that that been brought about in the module of warding P.hD. and M.Phil degree that have greatly benefitted women scholars. Also it has been noted that since 2013 a cumulative greater preference is being given to P.hD. that M.Phil and there is a tremendous increaser in research scholars registering for P.hD degree than the M.Phil degree which is showing a negative increase in registration.*

**Key words:** Rights, Acts, UGC, AICTE, P.hD, M.Phil, AISHE

## INTRODUCTION

A research degree can either be a Doctoral Degree which is commonly termed as Ph.D degree or a Masters in Philosophy Degree which is commonly termed as M.Phil degree. People choose doctoral degree because it is considered essential for research and career advancement. The recent changes made by AICTE and the UGC in its norms has made the Ph.D. degree essential for qualifying for any post above the Assistant level. It has been greatly observed that many of the research scholars opting for Ph.D degree are already involved in the academics and this degree is mainly to assist them in career enhancement. Observations have also shown that there are quite a number of research scholars form the industry and allied fields that are pursuing the doctoral degree for purely research basis. A research degree is always associated with recognition and awards and opportunities in niche fields since the degree provides its scholars with in-depth of specific field of research. Not only in the academics but government and private sectors also have a huge demand for people having Doctoral Degree and many research scholars are working as consultant and in management level in various banks and industry.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

India has since ancient always been known as the center for education and learning. Formal education system in India as we know today was introduced in the British Era. The minutes of meeting of Mountstuart Elphinstone's in the year 1823 has a record of discussion which has stressed the need for establishing schools in India with a motive to teach English and European Sciences. Later on in the year 1857 Sir Charles Wood took upon himself to start the formal education and established Universities in Kolkata, Mumbai and Madras and Allahabad University in 1857. To establish and promote the activities of these universities a Inter-University Board was established in 1925. Post Independence a Commission known was The University Education Commission was established in 1948 with Dr S Radhakrishnan at its head. It was at the suggestion of this commission the University Grants Committee was established with a view to provide futuristic extensions, improvements and also to fulfill the current needs of the country for higher education. Today through an Act of Parliament UGC is a statutory body of the Government Of India and has the onus to maintain the standard of University Education in India. UGC has six regional centers and its head office is located in New Delhi.

On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2009 The Under Grant Commission (India) for the first time brought about rules and regulations governing the admission criteria and award criteria for awarding Ph.D and M.Phil degree. Before 2009 respective State/Private Universities, Autonomous Bodies and Deemed Universities had their individual rules and regulations governing the admission to the Doctoral and M.Phil degree. It was unanimously agreed that without a similarity in rules the output of research degrees in India was greatly affected in a negative manner. So the HRD Ministry took it upon itself and directed UGC to formulate and implement rules and regulations governing the award of Phd and M.Phil degree. The rules and regulation were then subsequently modified to improve the quality of research in India. Today as on date it has been made mandatory for all State/Private Universities, Autonomous Bodies and Deemed Universities to stringently implement and follow the Rules and Regulations formed by UGC in order to improve the quality of research in India.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Objective of study:** The main objective of studying this topic is study the enrolment scenario for research studies in India and the gender wise enrolment in Ph.D and M.Phil degree

**Scope of study:** This study can help us to understand the impact of various norms and regulation of AICTE and UGC and the impact on the preference for the research degrees

**Methodology Used:** Secondary based research has been done and data for analysis has been collected from published reports of UGS, AISHE and Government of India.

**Limitation of study:** This research is based on descriptive case study method of research based on secondary data. This study is limited to data collected for the year 2013-17

## DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

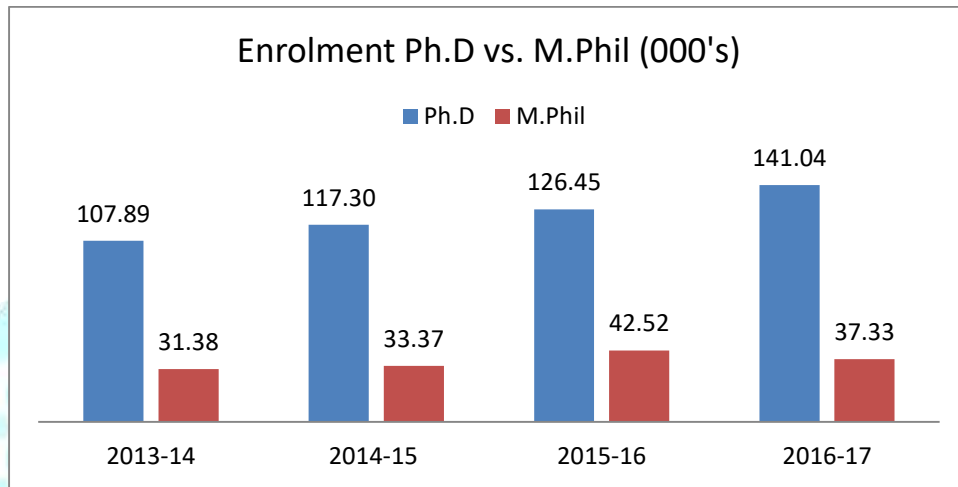
( in 000's)

Education Level	Male/ Female	2013- 14	2014- 15	2015- 16	2016- 17	% increase( 2014-15)	% increase( 2015- 16))	% increase( 2016-17)
Ph.D	Male	64.77	69.58	74.55	81.80	7%	7%	10%
	Female	43.12	47.72	51.90	59.24	11%	9%	14%
	Total	107.89	117.30	126.45	141.04	9%	8%	12%
M.Phil	Male	13.63	14.11	17.47	14.80	3%	24%	-15%
	Female	17.75	19.26	25.05	22.53	9%	30%	-10%
	Total	31.38	33.37	42.52	37.33	6%	27%	-12%

Tab1: Enrollment in Ph.D and M.Phil Degree from 2013 to 2017

Source: All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE); Department of Higher Education, M/o HRD

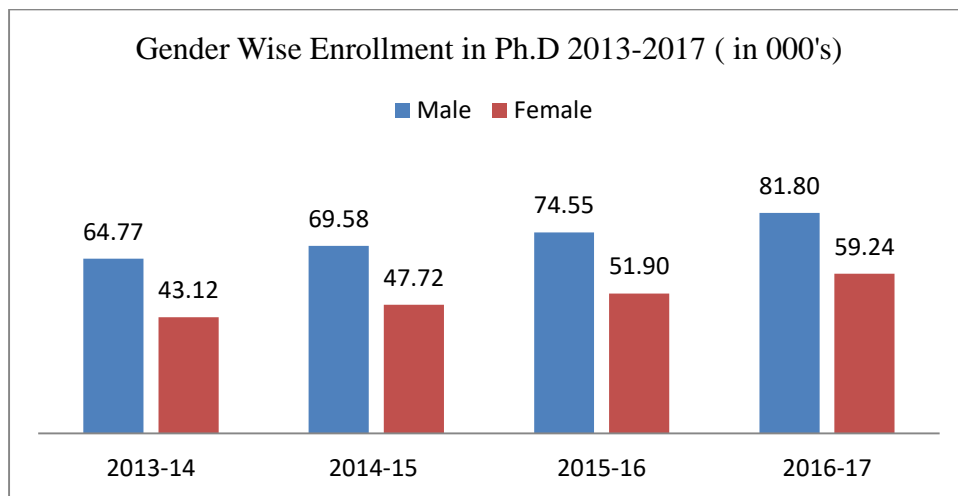
The above table shows the data regarding enrollment in Ph.D and M.Phil degree (gender wise and in total). The data is arranged gender wise. Also an Increase in Enrollment (gender wise and in total) from the previous year is shown.



Graph1: Enrollment Ph.D vs. M.Phil

Graph 1 signifies the enrollment scenario in Ph.D and M.Phil degree. In the year 2013-14 nearly One Lakh students enrolled for Ph.D whereas only Thirty One Thousand students enrolled from M.Phil degree. In the year 2016-17 One Lakh Forty One Thousand students enrolled for Ph.D but only Thirty Seven Thousand students enrolled for M.Phil.

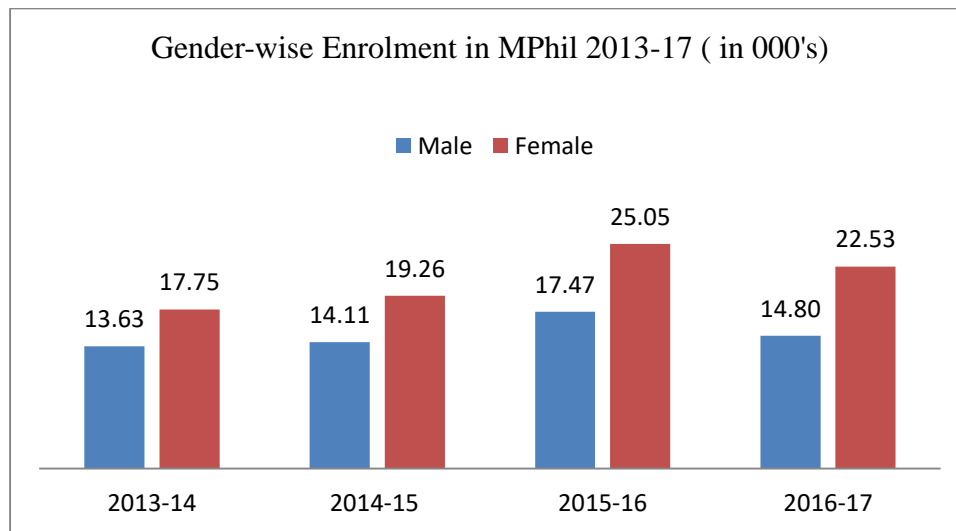
**Finding :** There is almost as increase of 30% in enrolment of students in Ph.D since 2013 but only 18% increase in the number of students enrolling for M.Phil Degree this shows that there is more preference for Doctoral Degree in Ph.D than M.Phil Degree.



Graph 2: Gender wise enrollment in Ph.D 2013-17

Graph 2 signifies the gender wise enrollment scenario in Ph.D. In the year 2013-14 nearly Sixty Four Thousand males enrolled against Forty Three Thousand females. In the year 2016-17 Eighty One Thousand Males and Fifty Nine Thousand females enrolled for Ph.D degree.

**Finding: There is almost an increase of 26% in enrollment of Male Scholars against 37% increase in enrollment of Female scholars since 2013. This shows that there is an increase on the higher side of enrollment of female research scholars registering for Ph.D degree.**



Graph 3: Gender wise enrollment in M.Phil Degree

Graph 2 signifies the gender wise enrollment scenario in M.Phil. In the year 2013-14 nearly Thirteen Thousand males enrolled against Seventeen Thousand females. In the year 2016-17 Fourteen Thousand Males and Twenty Two Thousand females enrolled for M.Phil degree.

**Finding: There is almost only 8% increase in enrollment of Male Scholars against 26% increase in enrollment of Female scholars since 2013. This shows that there is a tendency of more female students to opt for M.Phil degree than male students.**

## SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION

The University Grants Commission along with the HRD ministry has done a commendable effort in aligning and implementing the rules and regulation of Ph.D and M.Phil degree. This has brought uniformity in the award for these degrees throughout the country. Moreover by disallowing distance program for these degrees UGC has determined that there is no breach in the quality of research undertaken by the research scholars. It has been aptly noticed in the findings of this study that there is a notable increase in the registration of female research scholars for the doctoral Degree. This can be aptly attributed to the fact that the rules and regulation framed by the UGC is women friendly on the account that it takes into fact maternity concession of 8 months in addition to 1 year of relaxation period and 1 year of extension period if required. A provision has been given to change the Place of Research and University of Registration in case the female student is faced with a change in location.

In order to improve the quality of research the admission procedure has been made stringent wherein it is mandatory for interested student to clear a Phd Entrance Test consisting of two stages or must hold an M.Phil degree of must have cleared UGC-NET (including JRF)/UGC-CSIR NET (including JRF)/SLET/GATE/teacher

fellowship). Further before finalizing the registration of the students interview is held in front of a committee to finalize the synopsis of the student. Course work related to research methodology has been made mandatory in order to improve the quality of data and its analysis. The whole research period has been limited to a period of 5 years with 1 year of extension in case required but the extension period is strictly stipulated against certain conditions. A research scholar is allowed to submit his/her thesis only on completion of 3 years and following all the stages as stipulated in the rules and regulation of UGC which includes submission of periodic progress reports, course work, pre-PhD submission, journal publications, national/international conference publications etc. a plagiarism check and uploading of thesis on the internet is also undertaken in order to avoid duplication or stealing of research.

Suggestions for improving the quality of research can be given in the area to increase the participation of more male scholars. Male research scholars have shown only 18% increase in registration since 2013. This can be attributed to the fact that there is very little provision made especially for male research scholars. It is suggested that along with 1 year extension male scholars should also be given a period grace on account of paternity concession. They should also be given a preference in change of Research Place and University in case of change in Location.

It is also suggested that the period for submission of thesis should be reduced for 2 years instead of 3 years. Decreasing the period of submission will reduced the waiting period for new registrations. On the debate that whether decreasing the period of submission with impact on the quality of the research thesis it can be aptly advocated that undergoing the various stages of submission of progress reports and undertaking of course work can minimize the negative impact on qualitative research.

For the M.Phil program a serious revision is required since more and more students prefer the doctoral degree over the M.Phil program. Separate criteria and career advancement should also be allocated to M.Phil program in order to increase the takers for this program. It is also suggested that the M.Phil program should be mandatorily associated with other post graduate Master's program such as M.com, M.Sc, MBA, M.A, M.Tech etc. or a separate integrated Master's and M.Phil program can be proposed.

In the conclusion it can be stated that this research requires further in-depth study. Research has always been the driving for any revolution or change. To bring about change in the economy researchers will have to do quality research and contribute to the economy. Today many of the doctoral degree is being undertaken only for career advancement in such case the quality of research is being grossly neglected. Instead of the academics revolving around research it is vice versa the research is revolving around academics. It is very necessary for the researcher to do quality research and it is more important that institutions and university support the researcher not only in terms of monetary compensation but also allowing the researcher to fully devote time to the research. But in India very few institutions are actually promoting research and it is a high time that the situation should change.

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