



PURSUIT OF RESEARCH

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to present the reader with the various factors that make research momentous not only in academics and scientific advancement but also in day-to-day life. The paper highlights the factors for research literacy in men and draws a path way from the curiosity theory of evolution to the survival theory pointing out the significance of research. The paper concludes that the pursuit of research is lead by man's curiosity to unlock the mysteries of the universe and ensure their survival. This paper leaves ample room for further study wherein attempts can be made to understand the link between man's quest to conduct research in particular field of study and the various motivators using Maslow's theory of hierarchy or any other motivational theory.

Introduction

"It has often proved true that the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow" – Robert Goddard

Robert Goddard stated that in the autumn of 1899, when he was 17 years old living at his home in Worcester Massachusetts, climbed a tall cherry tree and as he gazed into the sky, stating that he was inspired by the works of authors like H. G. Wells. While climbing he looked towards the fields in the east and imagined how wonderful it would be to make a device that can even ascend to Mars. He dedicated his life to invent such a device and on March 16th, 1926, he launched successfully the world's first liquid propellant rocket (Granath, 2015)

Research is a synonym of 'to explore' and according to Cambridge dictionary to explore means to search and discover. Merriam-Webster Dictionary describes 'to explore' as 'to conduct systematic search'. The need to search and discover is the sole reason why the human race has advanced to the stage that it is in currently. It is the man's desire to explore that resulted in the advancement of humans in the fields of science, technology, and other fields of study. Throughout history of mankind, there have been numerous explorations taken up for various reasons starting with the prehistoric people being curious about what is on the other side of the hill. If it were not for the curiosity of man and his need to search and re-search we would still be on trees.

Literature Review

All actions of men are driven by curiosity and it can be freely stated that man is innately curious creature. According to Kidd and Hayden (2015), Tinbergen's Four Questions provides ways to understand any behaviour and in the functional domain it clarifies that curiosity serves to motivate acquisition of knowledge and learning (Kidd & Hayden, 2015) Similarly, According to George Loewenstein the more knowledge a person gains through research the more curious he gets and it is more likely for them to identify gaps in

their knowledge and further increase their curiosity (Loewenstein, 1994) Furthermore, according to Tom Stafford a trait of the human species cell neoteny is the root of humans peculiar curiosity. The term neoteny is from evolutionary theory and it means that us as a species is more juvenile and weaker to our primate cousins. He further claims that neoteny is a short cut taken by evolution where-in many changes happened to our species in one go rather than one by one. According to evolution theory Neoteny has though made us weaker to our primate cousins it has given us child's curiosity (Stoppard, 2012)

Certainly, its curiosity that drives the human race to acquire knowledge and conduct research with explicit and implicit rewards that act as motivation (Shin & Kim, 2019) There are several motivational factors that drives ones pursue of research and another factor is the individual's choice of study which in turn is driven by intrinsic and extrinsic motivators.

Taking research into consideration in general terms it is clearly the reason why man has advanced scientifically and technologically in the last few decades. Research has various significant factors. Imperatively research is conducted to gather information, evidence for theories, gain knowledge, contribute to existing knowledge base in a field of study. We as humans conduct research in our day to activities and do it with ease and for a curious mind eager to learn it does not matter if they are part of a research institution or not; easing the curious mind is imperative for them.

There are several factors that makes research necessary are:

- It is a tool that helps build knowledge and facilitate learning: if it weren't for research by Copernicus we would have never found out about the Sun-centred astronomical hypothesis of the universe. He was afraid of being criticized and therefore he did not publish his theory until 1543 i.e., shortly before he died. Had it not been for his quest for knowledge it would have taken men years to discard Earth-centred astronomical hypothesis.
- It helps to raise issues and increase public awareness: the famous Oprah Winfrey show is held solely on the research work done by the Oprah herself where-in she gathers information from communities and then share this information further. Likewise, the explorations conducted by Nasa brings forth much data about the universe's mystery and it further shares it with the scientific communities. Stephen Hawking was one of the most brilliant minds our century and he shared his knowledge about the universe.
- It helps businesses to grow: Today companies form research and development department to have competitive edge and improve upon their products and services. United Kingdom published a R & D scoreboard as a benchmark tool for their companies.
- It helps to disprove lies: Peer reviewing is mandatory before publishing of any scientific claim. It was claimed that Shakespeare was not educated but later through research this mistake was rectified.
- It helps to gauge, and seize opportunities: Students before applying to colleges conduct thorough research because choosing among the best possible options available to them is crucial as it will have a major impact on their course of life. Before applying for jobs candidates conduct research about the company they wish to apply, which gives them an edge (Zarah, 2021)
- It promotes confidence, nourishment and exercise of mind: reading and writing is entailed in research and it develops love towards academics. To conduct research there are certain skills like reading, writing, speaking, and listening that are essential and without these skills research is far too difficult. These skills facilitate critical thinking and develops good research techniques. Research helps students to develop critical reasoning skills and provides experience to them, this helps them to develop professional career (Johnson, 2015)

Research experience has now become part of the curriculum and has been taken seriously by the academics. It provides students a competitive edge and helps them in their professional life. Critical thinking is boosted by research activities and thus undertaking of research work at early levels of education enhances the vigour of the country.

Conclusion

12th February every year is celebrated as 'Darwin Day', to respect the researcher Charles Darwin who went against the social and political norms at the time and proved that evolution was not just an idea but reality. He conducted extensive research to come to the conclusion that through evolution only the fittest survives (Cunningham, 2020). Earlier survival of any species clearly depended on the fittest but for humans to survive it undoubtedly depended on research and it still does. It is research that has ensured the survival of the human race and brought the humans to the space and scope where no man has gone before. As stated earlier, evolution has brought in neoteny and has made man juvenile with child like curiosity, and weaker to his cousin primates but man has compensated its weakness by research using the same curiosity. It is the R & D conducted by humans throughout history that has ensured their survival. Be it plagues or natural calamities it is only through R & D that man has survived. It can be inferred that research is indubitably crucial not only in scientific and academic realms but in day-to-day life as well.

Further Study

Evolution theory of Neoteny and various motivators factors can be studied to understand the research motivators in a particular field of study.

Further research can be conducted using various motivational theories like Maslow's theory of hierarchy.

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