Who Should Come in Research?

Faiza Abdur Rab*

Assistant Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

*Corresponding Author: Faiza Abdur Rab, Assistant Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.

Received: December 31, 2016; Published: January 05, 2017

To pursue a career in research is a lengthy and tedious process and it is not a promising career. Neither it is well paid at most of the places. What make people to opt for doing research is usually inspirational reason. Generally there are more placements available that usually remain unfilled mainly because people find it difficult to pick it as a career. However many graduates who fail to be accommodated elsewhere pick research job mainly to pay for their bread and butter. This trend is more common in developing countries. Later on many of these type of graduates develop interest in research over a period of time and rest opt for other professions as soon as they get better opportunities. However one thing is for sure that any training can never substitute the inborn skill of individuals. There are many individuals who are inadequately trained to be eligible to do research independently but they have extremely creative minds and many of them explore their skills while working on small projects at private level. But since they are not attached with any institute and have not been trained as per standard procedure they are never acknowledged for their work unlike it used to happen in the olden days when science used to be fair to all. It has been part of history that many scientists who have made wonderful contributions in science and the outcome are exciting inventions are those who could not attend the formal education. Even in this Era of Advancement practically we have moved a step back, to own a credit in science one needs to be formally trained and needs to be attached with any institute with having funding from a recognized source. Worst aspect of this situation is, more often the ideas with such people are copied with paying at high cost to them or others who help in stealing original contributor’s ideas whereas some other people are benefitted and are acknowledged for stolen work. In several incidences Original Thinkers are thrown out of profession on medical ground including Mental Health illness or less often are killed if their work seems to bring any Great Revolution in understanding of Knowledge in given area.

The failure of existing system of research training is, people who have out of box thinking but have no formal education are left out of the main stream and they have no way to get accommodated into the research institutes in capacity of independent researchers. That in turn cause great loss in term of productivity comprising of original contributions towards knowledge.

In my opinion there is utmost need to review and revise the policies regarding training offered to train Researchers with having award Higher Research Degrees, probably making Moral Standing a Pre-Requisite in addition to having the ability to add something Genuine to knowledge.

Doing research does not mean every project to be a success; rather it is a learning process explaining unexplored queries that usually starts with negative results. Since these days whole activity of research run by earning the funding Grants from organizations supporting research and it is mandatory to acknowledge the source of funding while publishing the work. Usually papers are written on positive results and yet there is no trend to write papers on negative results whereas for continuation of project or for starting any new project there need to mention the list of publications in recent years, everyone is in search of new ideas, moving up in correct direction seems to be less concern.

In order to increase the creative productivity, it is extremely important to write papers on negative results as well and funding is supposed to continue till all aspects of the query are addressed in spite of having negative results. In other words it should NOT be positive results that ensure winning or continuation of Funding Grant.

Citation: Faiza Abdur Rab. "Who Should Come in Research?". EC Nutrition 6.3 (2017): 102-104.
Another practice that damages the creativity is the trend of working on someone else idea and publishing on paper without involving the concerned researcher.

For post graduation e.g. M.Sc or MPhil, students are supposed to do extensive literature study to design a project under the supervision of Research Teachers. Usually young minds are more innovative not all but some of students come up with innovative ideas. They built up the primary work under the guidance of supervisor using their understanding of knowledge until the basic requirement to award of said degree is fulfilled. It simply means the one owns the original understanding on a given aspect of scientific query leave the investigation of study merely because the expected work for award the degree is completed. In most of the institutes even in advance countries as well while writing papers the contribution of graduate students on some work that is later on usually extended by the same group is not acknowledged in publications and hence initial workers are not involved in writing papers.

None other than the researcher who worked on bench after having extensive study can have best firsthand knowledge and understanding on the project and can give the best explanations with thorough analysis that often not even the supervisors can discuss. It is one of the reasons that considerably amount of published data is non reproducible these days. Usually when researchers are written for earning grants there is a principal investigator and one or two co investigators depending on the type of project. In most of the cases, principal investigator is an established scientist and usually key person to pick the researchers to work on the project and has authority to fire any researcher with having confidence on the administration whereas the authorities in certain cases can put undue pressure to take certain decisions even those for which heading Researcher is not convinced. Leading Investigators are usually the key personals to decide the authorships whereas concerned authorities in Institutes endorse them before final submission of manuscripts for Grant Applications as well as for publishing work specially in Globally MOST Respected Journals e.g. Highest Impact Factor Journals. Since it is a team work personality incompatibility or conflict of interest are the main issues that destroy the productivity of the project. In most of the cases, institutes support their employees e.g. Bigger the name, Greater the support. Anyone who is having good experience and understanding of the project can easily be stopped working on the project specially in the situation where some novel findings are expected to reveal on extension of the work. Since psychology is a domain of knowledge which does not yet have any established diagnostic test to confirm the mental health and mainly rely on the feedback of people there is a strong possibility that anyone can be declared non eligible to continue the work on mental health status particularly to serve the interest of few individuals, usually the BIG names. Institutes support those who can bring more money, most of the cases they are the renowned established scientists mainly because it s the money that runs the show. It is yet to decide that mental illness whether can deprive the person from owing right on any project or credit or not. This is an extremely weak point in the policy that can destroy the career and life of any individual and the person remains helpless to disprove the documented conclusions of experts their mental status.

In many cases the researcher have to pick a placement beyond area of their specialty merely because there is not any placement available elsewhere. This trend is damaging both in terms of productivity on the project on other hand can add up a bad experience to the researcher s career and life if they fail to present the required progress over a period of time, pre-set in most of the instances specially in industries, that is very expected in similar cases, reported to happen as well. With the advancement in understanding of different Fields of Science, its practical implication e.g. technology has made the situation more complex. With having added commercial aspect attached to the science, the whole show of science implications has become money driven, and scientists have lost control on the use of scientific findings. Though there is regulatory bodies for almost every domain of science to validate the translation of scientific knowledge into technology and to set the guidelines related to safety issues and user concerns but there are fewer number of related scientists, especially those having understanding on basic sciences as well, become members of such organizations, whereas committees are mostly comprised of those Scientists who have never been involved in hard core research in the given area and hence well being of public is often compromised keeping in view the return of investment the prime concern till there appears a large population reported to be effected with its adverse effect; following to it science takes a step ahead to provide the remedy to adverse effects. Let it be with the concept related to use of fat in diet, use of antibiotics, different drugs etc. With increasing involvement f commercial aspect, research in basic sciences is being discouraged and every institute expect researchers to design or develop products that can be marketed to earn
money or to win more Funding Grants that can support the process of generation of publications with high pace though quality and reproducibility in many instances have never been the prime concern. Even illegal money is being used to continue the process generation of data for making publications at high rate whereas this type of work can easily be reported in locally or regionally publishing Journals usually lack international credibility but are good enough to add to list of credits in Resume of workers having temptation for fame with focus on acquiring authority It’s one of the reasons, knowledge these days, is losing its pace of generation, on one hand whereas reproducibility on other hand whereas researchers are bearing the pressure to make progress in study within pre-set time limit and this trend is more intense in industries driven research projects. Science is nurtured by free minds whereas time frame limit destroys the creativity. But who cares when the main objective is to make money, then more money, then even more money whereas same is true for fame and for the greed to acquire authority. Like in past even today, borne scientists do science merely because they enjoy it and financial factor has yet not been their prime concern. Knowing all these challenges to meet during research career if you still have the patience and positivity with hope that while meeting with these expected challenges, you believe that you can make Best out of your Potentials to do Wonders to reveal the Horizon of Knowledge beyond the sight in addition to contributing something original to yet unexplored aspect of Understanding then you are the right person to pick Research and Teaching as profession though for Borne Scientist it is this field is Seldom a Career.