

The True Meaning of Research

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The onerous task of writing an epilogue to the present issue of the journal is indeed a challenge. A journal is a keyhole view of the wondrous kaleidoscope of human thought and action. It focuses on what is a possibility today and what could be one tomorrow. It is a small compendium of the unending effort of various groups of motivated untiring individuals committed to research and innovation.

What is research and how useful is it to mankind? Natural phenomena have enthused man to probe and find out their initiation and progress. This investigation is relentless as new dimensions are understood and added to existing concepts. Greater in-depth understanding and newer revelations add to the knowledge bank. It is interesting to note that in the myriad of experimentation, trials and tests the purpose of true research becomes a mere academic objective. This is what I call research for the sake of research. The human mind is so bogged down by the volume of information collected and interpretations that the true purpose of research may be lost. In



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yesteryears when objectives and targets in research were simpler, experimentation was less complicated and the researcher was always focused on the universal target of human welfare. This is getting obscured as we get to another morrow, our minds set on the mere nuances of investigation. It is a means to personal achievement, elevation in status as a researcher and fame. The intoxication is real heady! Research is a means of self aggrandizement and exhibition. The competitive edge has come to the fore now in its gross form with stealth in plagiarism and theft. What is lamentable is that even the adjudicators are weaponless against this vice. There are instances of gift co-authorships to people who have no idea of the research done; they are just contented with additions to their publications. Friends, I am appalled to observe this growing scourge all around me and I am terribly dismayed by the sheer pettiness of human behavior.

Research is not just a human effort; it is a state of mind that fuels your body to relentless effort at hitching your wagon to a star. A chick is born only after the egg hatches. The utility of research interpretations can be assessed much later but will be nearer to fulfillment if the effort has been initiated as a humble effort to benefit life on earth. A researcher must be acutely conscious of the fact that all research reveals only what already exists or its varied form. Hence coveting research or unhealthy competition is a mere folly.

When Thomas Alva Edison worked to design a light bulb, the motivation stemmed from a desire to dispel darkness for his dear mother. When Jagadish Chandra Bose could not present his innovation on the wireless before Guillermo Marconi, it spurred him to demonstrate

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the phenomenon of respiration in plants. With such brilliant precedents before us we must design research with discrete objectivity with the utility to benefit life as such. Only then will large volumes of documentation on recent advancement be meaningful.

The journal stands committed to the cause of human oral health and contributes to research in its own inimical way. Friends rise above the mundane and the ordinary and strive to elevate the quality of life of fellow humans. Research for the benefit of humanity should be your mantra.