

Research Policy

Preamble

Universities are supposed to produce knowledge and disseminate knowledge. The knowledge production happens mainly in English, and the user of this knowledge which is in English is hardly able to access due to lack of knowledge of English, as hardly 3% of our population knows English. Thus the knowledge produced doesn't reach the concerned people who can make better use of this knowledge. While Universities are supported from public fund, it is hard to justify this elitist nature of knowledge production in Indian Universities. In recent years, a lot of epistemological questions have also been raised about the validity of producing knowledge of Indian society in English using the conceptual categories produced in English based on Euro-American experience, while Indian societies predominantly transact in/through Indian languages.

Kannada University is not just a knowledge disseminating University but knowledge producing as well as disseminating University. The research by the faculty members is the main stay of its functioning. Apart from faculty members, research programs are offered to help those who would like to carry research. The knowledge produced is disseminated through its publications, seminars, conferences, symposiums, workshops and it is able to take the knowledge thus produced to the people and the concerned agencies, which could use it to build a better society.

Research is mandatory for all teachers; the teachers and research scholars are encouraged to seek external funding from agencies, University also provides grants to teachers and financial assistance to students when external funding is not available.

The completed research projects by the faculty members need to be submitted to the University and after carrying out the necessary academic audit of the report; the research out-put may get published by the University.

Objectives

The main objective of this research policy is to guide research activities of the teachers and others who are pursuing university sponsored research projects. The specific objectives of the research policy are

1. To promote multidisciplinary research in Kannada on all aspects of Karnataka in Kannada and when necessary in English
2. To produce knowledge of the world in Kannada
3. To encourage plurality in knowledge production and dissemination
4. To establish link between societal requirements and knowledge production
5. To focus on areas which are hitherto neglected by the discipline/researchers
6. To make knowledge produced accessible to the needy

Promotion of Research by teaching faculty

The University promotes maximum freedom in all areas of research. Scholars are free to take up research on any area of their interest keeping the mandate of the University and the concerned Department in view. They are free to seek support from any funding agencies for their research work. Scholars are free to report their findings and conclusions of their research. However, scholars are advised to take care of the vision and missions of the university while pursuing their research projects. The statutory bodies established by the University scrutiny the research projects of the faculty members and also evaluate the proposed research to see whether the proposal contributes to the regional and national development.

The research is structured in two ways:

1. Individual Project: where the research proposal is prepared by the individual teacher and approved by the concerned statutory bodies.
2. Department Project: Where the proposal is prepared by the Department as a whole and a component is taken up for further research by a faculty member either individually or in group depending on the seed money allocated to the department by the University.

Due to limited resources, the University encourages scholars to seek support from external sources. Outside scholars who are interested to pursue research are given basic facilities such as library, computer and other necessary facilities.

Individual Research Projects (on the lines of minor research project)

In order to encourage research spirit among the young faculty members, university provides seed money to take minor research projects. University also encourages faculty members to seek financial assistance from external agencies such as UGC, ICHR, ICSR and other funding agencies.

All the faculty members are required to prepare a research proposal and submit the proposal to scrutiny committee at the level of the Department. Scrutiny committee shall send the proposal to experts to get expert opinion on the proposal. Based on the expert opinion the committee decides the viability of the proposal. If the proposal is worth pursuing and if there is sufficient research fund in the university, committee recommends for internal funding otherwise suggests the scholar to seek external funding. If the project is internally funded, it will be subjected to rules and regulations governing research work in the university. It is also mandatory to send a half yearly progress report of such research projects to the University. The Board of Studies at the Department and Adhyayananga (Academic wing) at the University level monitor the projects. The University also constitutes committees comprising of external experts to see that the project are completed in stipulated time.

Department Research Projects

University being a research university lays more emphasis on Department research projects, where all the members of a department work on different components of a project. Thrust areas of research specified under plurality of knowledge are considered on priority basis for such research projects. The research projects are funded either externally or internally. Those department which have secured Special Assistance Program under the UGC, are encouraged to make it part of such programs.

The department/researcher need to maintain accounts and submit periodical progress report to the funding agency as per the requirement of the funding agency/MoU. When the University is funding the project, it allocates the money to the projects in a particular department in the budget provisions. All these projects are subject to the financial rules/regulations of the University.

Multi-disciplinary Research: Looking social problem with single lens does not give different dimensions of a problem. That's why multi-disciplinary research became a must nowadays. In order to meet the demands of multi-dimensional approach University organized departments with faculty from multi-disciplinary backgrounds. The University has decided to encourage multi-disciplinary research activities and decided to take the following steps to achieve the goal.

- a) Identify the multi-disciplinary areas of research.
- b) Identify the experts from different disciplinary background and provide a platform for them to work together.
- c) University strives hard to create both physical and intellectual environment suitable for multi-disciplinary research.
- d) University either funds internally or explore external sources to fund interdisciplinary research.

Doctoral and Post-doctoral Programs

The University offers five programs –

1. Ph.D.
 2. M.Phil.
 3. M.A.Ph.D.
 4. D.Lit.
 5. MA
- Only those who qualify in the entrance examinations conducted by the university shall be admitted to these programs.
 - For the students who qualify and get admitted the financial support and residential facilities are offered in the campus.
 - Students are encouraged to seek financial support for their research from external sources such as UGC, ICHR, Rajeev Gandhi Research Fellowship, National Higher Educational Fellowship, Maulana Abdul Azad Fellowship, Backward Classes Commission and other sources.
 - In order to equip the students with the research skill, workshops on research methods shall be organized regularly. In these workshops both the quantitative and qualitative research methods shall be taught to the students.
 - The University encourages faculty and research scholars to get funding for attending conferences from external agencies as a matching share so that the quality in research paper can be maintained.
 - University provides in-house publication facilities.
 - In addition to the in-house facilities, University encourages faculty and research scholars to publish their works with regional and national publishers.

Plurality of Knowledge

Kannada University believes in plurality of knowledge and thus allows/encourages different epistemologies to be employed in research.

- i) University attempts to project Kannada culture, expressed through art, architecture, sculptures, paintings, iconography, epigraphy, theater, dance, music, tribal art, religion, philosophy of life and social movements along with the epistemologies in which they are encoded.
- ii) University encourages preserving traditional knowledge systems and see whether those epistemological frameworks are useful for the present problems.
- iii) Faculty and research scholars are encouraged to theorize and examine the ways of living of marginalized communities
- iv) University attempts to develop Kannada as a repository of knowledge in relation to modern advances in sciences and technology.

Publication

University has established its own publication wing called Prasaraanga. The publication wing has its own rules to regulate the publication. The rules specifies the procedure one should follow to publish ones work. Research works of employees and outsiders are published after proper referee report by panel of experts. In addition to in-house publication the University encourages faculty members and students to publish in reputed journals. Each research scholar needs to publish at least two research papers before submitting his/her dissertation for colloquium. Publishing wing of the University has a sales division which takes the published works to the people.

Study Chairs

The University has ten study chairs. They are Studies on Dalit Culture, Lohia Studies, Studies on Shamba Joshi, Studies on PurandaraDasa, Hyderabad Karnataka Regional Studies, Valmiki Studies, Jaina Studies, Halumata Studies, DevaraDasimayya Studies and Dr. Rajkumar Studies. Professors who have expertise in respective fields are appointed as chairpersons of these chairs. These chairs take up research and publication works in their fields.

Code of Ethics

In order to ensure academic integrity among the scholars University has adopted University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2017 with necessary modification. Researchers need to adhere to the principles declared in the above regulation.