

RESEARCH POLICY OF RTM NAGPUR UNIVERSITY NAGPUR.

About the University:-

Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University was established on 4th August 1923. Presently the University comprises of 46 post graduate teaching departments (PGTD), 3 conducted colleges/institutions (Law College, Laxminarayan Institute of Technology , and College of Education). More than 500 colleges are affiliated to the University. The University is governed by the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (hereinafter the "Act") and is a public University within the meaning of the Act.

There are four faculties in the University as specified by the Act. These faculties are:-

- (a) Faculty of Science and Technology ;
- (b) Faculty of Commerce and Management ;
- (c) Faculty of Humanities; and
- (d) Faculty of Inter-Disciplinary Studies.

Definitions:-

1. Research: Research is original, independent (the word independent does not exclude collaborative work) investigation undertaken to contribute to knowledge and understanding and, in the case of some disciplines, cultural innovation or aesthetic refinement. Research typically involves inquiry of an experimental or critical nature driven by hypothesis or intellectual positions capable of rigorous assessment by experts in a given discipline.

Research includes work of direct relevance to the specific needs of communities, government, industry and commerce. In some disciplines, research may be embodied in the form of artistic works, performances or designs that lead to new or substantially improved insights. Research may include contributions to the intellectual underpinning of subjects and disciplines, the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products, communications or processes, the synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative.

Research findings must be open to scrutiny or evaluation in the field.

This may be achieved through various forms of communication including, but not limited to, publication, manufacture, construction, public presentation etc.

Research does not include activities that are part of routine standard practice or outputs which do not embody original research.

2. Research Centre : It means the centre established by the University and dedicated for promoting and cataloguing quality research activities within the post graduate teaching departments, conducted colleges/institutions, affiliated colleges and recognised institutions of the University
3. University: It means Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University.

The Legal Matrix:-

The University has the mandate to carry out research in all the faculties and for that it is obliged to make adequate provision including establishment of laboratories. For this purpose, the University has been empowered to raise finances through conduct of research for public and private industries, government organisations at local, regional, national, and global level. (**Sections 4(15) and 5(2)**). For promoting research activities in the University the Act has made provision for appointment of a statutory officer called “Director of Innovation, Incubation and Linkages” (**section 20**). To enhance the culture of research in the University’s post graduate teaching departments, affiliated colleges and recognised institutions the Act has made the provision for establishment of the “Board of Research” in the University (**section 59**). The Director of Innovation, Incubation and Linkages is the Member-Secretary of this Board. This Board has the long list of activities concerning research in the University and its colleges and institutions including devising the mechanism for raising funds for undertaking research and also to establish central research laboratory. In order to ensure quality of research the Board is required to formulate its policy in consonance with the norms of the University Grants Commission and other regulatory bodies (**section 60 (f)**). To complement the work of the Board of Research the Act has contemplated the establishment of the Board of National and International Linkages, and again the Director of Innovation, Incubation and Linkages being its Member-Secretary (**section 52**). In order to ensure quality of research at the Ph.D. level the Act provides for establishment of Research and Recognition Committee for each Board of Studies (**section 37**). In addition to the above agencies the Act has entrusted the Board of Deans with the responsibility to ensure that the research carried

out in the university and the affiliated colleges and recognised institutions conforms to the standards of research set by the regulatory bodies. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor is the chairman of this Board of Deans. **(Section 37 (1)(c) and 36 (2))** Apart from the above mentioned bodies and the officers of the University the Academic Council of the University comprising academicians is also under the obligation “to ensure that the University becomes a vibrant hub for promotion of research and development...”(**section 33 (1) (a)**).

A combined reading of the above mentioned legal provisions leads one to the compelling conclusion that there is a strong and comprehensive legal regime under the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 for promoting the culture of research amongst the teachers and the taught. The research carried out in the University is expected to be socially relevant and should be a means to accelerate economic development of the region catered by the University. The research activities are intended to generate financial resources for the university which in turn could be utilised to fund the research and develop infrastructure of the university.

Research Policy of the University:-

University believes that research which is most important activity in the university, its colleges and the recognised institutions shall be conducted for upliftment of the society, bridging the disparity amongst various sections of the society, optimum utilisation of the resources of the region, employment generation through entrepreneurship, ensuring sustainable development etc. Thus, properly directed research activities in the University have the capacity to bring the university at the centre stage of the society and discharge the obligation which is legitimately expected from the university. With this aim in mind the objectives and guiding principles of research in the university, keeping in mind the national and the state policies on research, have been framed.

Objectives of Research Policy:

- 1) To create and preserve knowledge and understanding through qualitative research.
- 2) To create attitude and inculcate the orientation towards research among the students starting from the level of undergraduate studies by introduction of the courses on

fundamentals and basics of research which would help in developing analytical abilities and critical thinking.

- 3) To condition the minds of the teachers, students and researchers for identifying and understanding social, political, economic, issues affecting the society with a sense of empathy, sympathy and compassion for various groups of people with a view to search for viable and practical solutions to those problems which in turn will contribute to the holistic development of the society for e.g. agrarian crisis affecting the life of rural people, health issues of marginalised section of the society, and problems associated with urbanisation like transportation, waste management, etc. .
- 4) To create conducive environment in all the Institutions of the University, by procuring and providing appropriate infrastructure including equipments for conduct of quality research and developing research culture in the University system.
- 5) To enter into MOUs with agencies, institutions, industries, etc; for the purpose of collaborative research as well as to provide consultancies.
- 6) To translate the output of the research as a content and component of the courses of various programmes offered by the University through constant up gradation and revision of the programme contents in discharge of the obligations specified under the Maharashtra Public Universities Act.
- 7) To promote culture and provide facilities including financial assistance to the young and newly recruited faculty members through various financial schemes of the University.
- 8) To establish dedicated research cell to guide, motivate and mentor the researchers within the University system including affiliated colleges.
- 9) To publish a standard international level research journal to give wide publicity to the research output of the research centres.

Guiding Principles:

- In order to make the University to connect with the society, the policy of the University shall be to demolish all the barriers between the society and the University for e.g. the Language of communication between the researchers and the

stakeholders shall be strictly the language of the people. This prescription of peoples language will encourage free flow of information for both, the identification of the research problem i.e. problems affecting the members of the society and dissemination of the outcome of the research from the University to the members of the society. This policy of encouraging use of local language as a critical component of research in the University is expected to put the researcher in a more comfort zone, wherever language is a problem for the researcher.

- The University shall strive to acknowledge, appreciate and reward even the research carried out by the people in an informal way without expectation of any monetary or career advancement gain. In this regard University will adopt the open door and flexible mechanism for conduct of research under the banner of the University.
- With respect to the post P.G. degree research the University shall create conditions for hassle free entry of the researcher but putting in place the stringent norms of evaluation to ensure that the outcome of the research is worthy of acquisition of intellectual properties like patent which will enhance the culture of acquisition and protection of intellectual properties, the most important and significant kind of property in the contemporary society, in consonance with the national intellectual property policy.
- University will ensure transparency in all its research activities by public proclamation through its website and documentation. To discourage plagiarism and to encourage original and authentic research the University shall adopt and enforce strong anti plagiarism rules and regulations.

Operationalisation of the Research Policy:-

It is the duty of the Director of Innovation, Incubation and Linkages to operationalise the research policy of the University. He is expected to play a key role in providing information to the faculty members and the research scholars. For this purpose he may conduct seminars and workshops, in consultation with the Pro- Vice-Chancellor. The Director shall prepare, in consultation with the Deans of the concerned faculty, list of the tentative areas of the research which may be chosen by the researcher.

University shall establish a cell dedicated for the research activities in the university and its affiliated colleges. Each affiliated college where research is carried out whether under its research centre or otherwise shall establish linkage with the University's research centre. The research centre shall work directly under the supervision of the Director of Innovation, Incubation and Linkages who shall create a data base of all the research projects and research studies, including Ph.D. studies, in the University and its affiliated colleges. Every detail regarding the area of research, name of the researcher, his guide, place of research, funding agency (including university where funds are given by the university from its own corpus), amount of the funds received, equipments procured, period of the research, outcome of the research etc. shall be submitted at the research centre of the University which shall maintain its separate website and all the information shall be made available on this website. The centre shall give all kinds of assistance to the researchers including maintaining their accounts so that the researcher can stay focused on his/her research unburdened from the liability to comply with the requirements of the finance code. The centre shall be well equipped with anti plagiarism software. The University shall make adequate budgetary provision for the smooth functioning of this centre.

Where research output is written in the vernacular language the research centre shall translate the same in to English language to make the research output available at the national level.

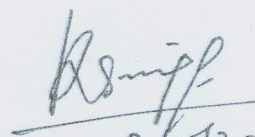
Under the umbrella of the research centre University shall establish a national level centralised state of the art research laboratory catering to the research activities in all the Departments of the University. This arrangement will dispense the requirement of maintaining research laboratories separately in each Department of the University. Such well equipped laboratory apart from promoting the interdisciplinary research in the university will become a force to attract collaboration with industries and other research laboratories. The existence of such laboratory is likely to promote industrialisation in the region. Industries will not be required to invest money in research activities instead they can hire the infra structure of the University which in turn will generate funds for the University. It will also cut down the cost of administration saving precious resources of the university.

The ideas generated through the research could be converted in to enterprise through the Incubation centre of the University.

The above centre shall be working directly under the control of the Director, Innovation, Incubation and Linkages and the Director shall submit the annual report regarding the working of the centre in the meeting of the BOR.

Revision of the Policy:-

The Board of research of the University being the authority of the university entrusted with the responsibility to work on long term policy and strategy for promotion of research culture in the university, colleges and recognised institution shall undertake the work of revision of the research policy of the University taking in to consideration the education and research policy of the central government and the state government so that there is synergy between the policy of the university and the policy of the governments. In this regard the Director shall elicit the views of the Professors of the university and the senior faculty members of the colleges and researchers in the recognised institutions.


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Director,

Board of Innovation, Incubation and Linkages
Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj
Nagpur University, Nagpur