



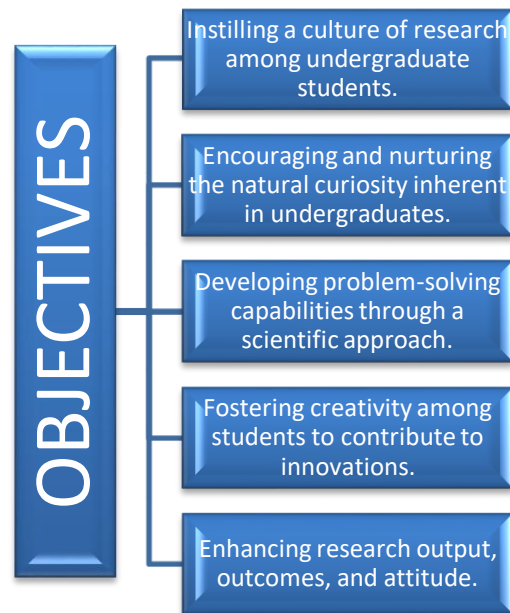
Institutional Best Practice - 2

UNDERGRADUATES RESEARCH: CHOOSE YOUR OWN GUIDE

Research plays a crucial role in the academic journey of students at GDCH Nagpur, including undergraduates, postgraduates, and PhD scholars. While research is a mandatory requirement for postgraduates and PhD scholars, the undergraduate curriculum primarily focuses on basic education, leaving the research aspect unexplored. However, nurturing the curiosity of undergraduate students and introducing them to research methodologies can be instrumental in fostering new ideas and innovations at an early age.

Objectives:

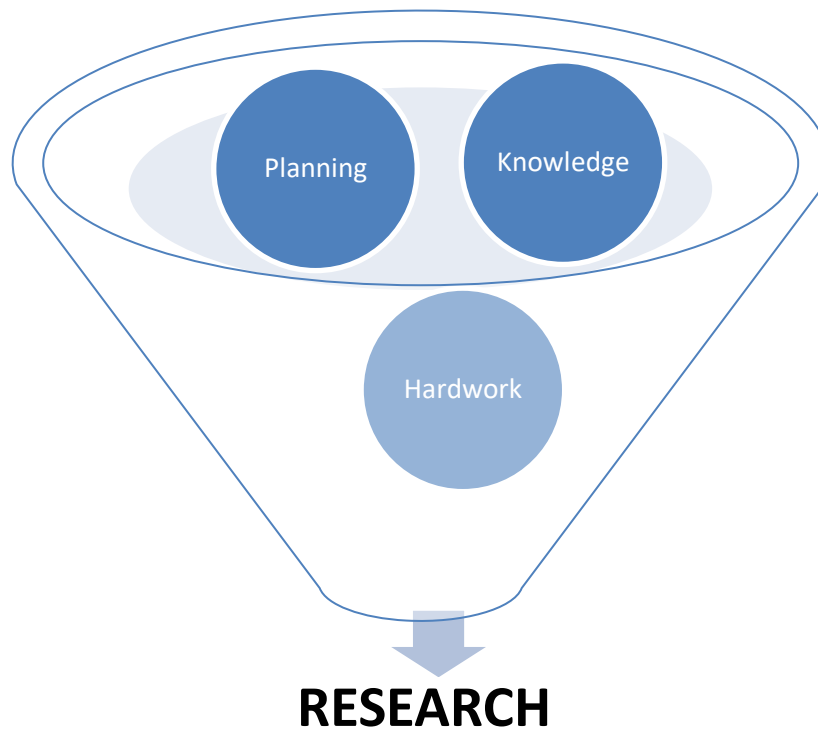
1. Instilling a culture of research among undergraduate students.
2. Encouraging and nurturing the natural curiosity inherent in undergraduates.
3. Developing problem-solving capabilities through a scientific approach.
4. Fostering creativity among students to contribute to innovations.
5. Enhancing research output, outcomes, and attitude.



Context:

Research is a critical and challenging task that requires in-depth subject knowledge, careful planning, and hard work. Undergraduate students possess excellent thinking capacity for innovations, but due to the academic-oriented education system, their focus remains primarily on academics. By systematically exposing them to scientific methods and various components of research methodologies in a structured format, their research aptitude can be developed.

To inculcate scientific research aptitude, continuous guidance and mentoring by expert teachers/guides is required. A student-centric approach can be adopted by allowing students to **choose their own guides/mentors**, which would generate further interest and enthusiasm in them. This initiative aims to sow the seeds of research in young minds, uplifting them toward achieving national and international standards.



Practice:

Various platforms are made available to increase research temperament among undergraduates that include participation in ICMR, Avishkar, scientific activities in annual gatherings, NIDCON, and Fathom.

Research methodology workshops are organized by GDCH Nagpur every year that cover various research-related topics, such as the scope of innovation and research for dental students, selecting research topics, and applying for grants.

In 2022, GDCH Nagpur organized the first State Level Undergraduate Research Conference, where students from various dental colleges across Maharashtra participated in poster, table-top, and paper presentations.

Evidence of Success:

Evidence of success can be seen through the papers presented in state and national conferences, selection of student projects for ICMR, and the active



participation of students in research activities. Various awards and recognitions have been received by undergraduate students for their research work.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES

REQUIRED:

- **The challenges encountered include**
 - Burdened academic curriculum leaving minimal time for research activities
 - Limited student participation due to a focus on academics
 - Lack of separate grants for undergraduate research, and the need for proper exposure to research and its implications.

To address these challenges and further promote research among undergraduates

- *The proposed plan includes*
 - Highlighting and presenting past research to first-year students
 - Showcasing famous innovations in respective fields
 - Incorporating a "Scientific Grant Writing Program" into the curriculum.

These measures aim to provide early research exposure and equip undergraduate students with the necessary skills and knowledge to engage in impactful research.

