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## **AWARENESS ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY A FIELD SURVEY IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT OF HARYANA**

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**JULY-AUGUST 2024**

**RESEARCH TEAM: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CELL**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Research is inevitable for the professionals for their career growth and for the cause of the society. It is essential to understand the research methodology for any research. The role of academic integrity and ethics in research are highly appreciated. The increasing use of online content of research poses a challenge. Therefore, the understanding of research ethics and of research methodology is mandatory for all researchers. Research is significant when conducted correctly because it helps us to understand and possibly even solve existing or probable problems.

A field survey on awareness about research methodology involve conducting research directly by interviewing researchers/teachers/professionals/students from different academic backgrounds and sectors to assess their understanding and knowledge of key research methodologies. It will help to analyse their strengths and weaknesses their respective fields. The survey is conducted using questionnaires or structured interviews to collect data.

Research and Innovation Cell works for the creation and transfer of knowledge and set up a system for promoting research. The Cell has been organizing workshops, conferences, and seminars and monitors the publication of College Journals namely, 'National Research Journal of Social Sciences' and 'Coherence'. The cell organized lectures on research methodology which imparted research knowledge and helped to develop research aptitude. There are two study centres in the college- Gandhian Study centre and Nehru Study Centre which are also engaged in research projects.

An awareness assessment field survey was conducted by Research and Innovation cell.

### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:**

- To measure the overall level of awareness about research methodology
- To identify specific areas where knowledge gaps exist regarding different research methods.

### **METHODOLOGY OF FIELD SURVEY:**

Sampling Strategy: Targeted Sampling: Participants from diverse academic disciplines, such as Science, social sciences, humanities, Commerce have been selected using random sampling. Stratified Sampling has been used to classify the respondents as per geographic location, urban/rural areas, and educational attainment. Structured

Questionnaire have been designed as per the objectives of the field survey. Multiple-choice questions to assess basic knowledge of research concepts such as meaning of hypothesis, variable, sampling techniques, plagiarism, academic writings, ethics in research etc. have been asked. Open-ended questions have also been asked to know the perceptions of the researchers. A total of 135 participants were approached. The students of postgraduate classes from different streams and different colleges were included in the sample

**Table 1**

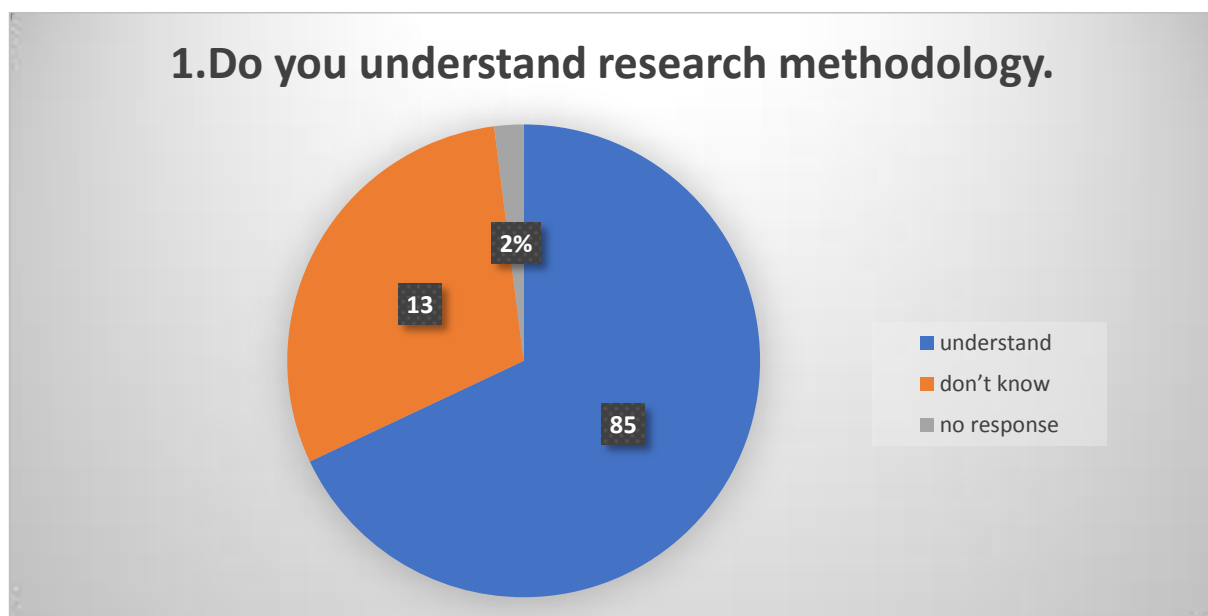
Level	Number
PG Commerce	20
PG Economics	25
PG Sociology	10
PG Human Rights	15
PG Computer Science	30
PG English	18
PG Hindi	9
PG Mathematics	8
Total	135
Area	Number
Rural Students	50
Urban Students	50
Semi-Urban Students	15
Total	135

A total of 135 respondents were contacted. This included students from PG classes of Commerce, Economics, Sociology, Human Rights, Computer Science, English, Hindi and Mathematics. These students belong to various colleges located in urban, rural and semi-urban areas. Most of these students have some exposure of research projects in their respective subjects. Many of the students have studied statistics and research methodology as a part of their curriculum.

#### **DISCUSSION AND RESULTS OF THE FILED SURVEY:**

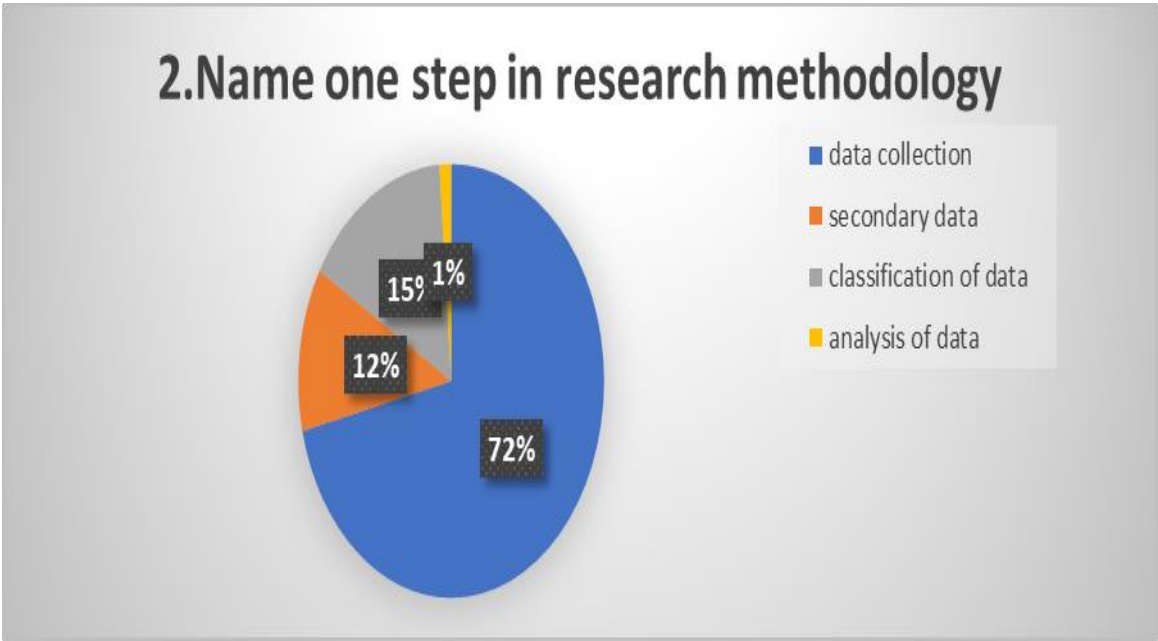
A set of 11 questions were prepared in the questionnaire having questions relating to research and research methodology. The survey report shows that most of the students were aware of the research questions.

**Q1.** Do you understand "research methodology"?



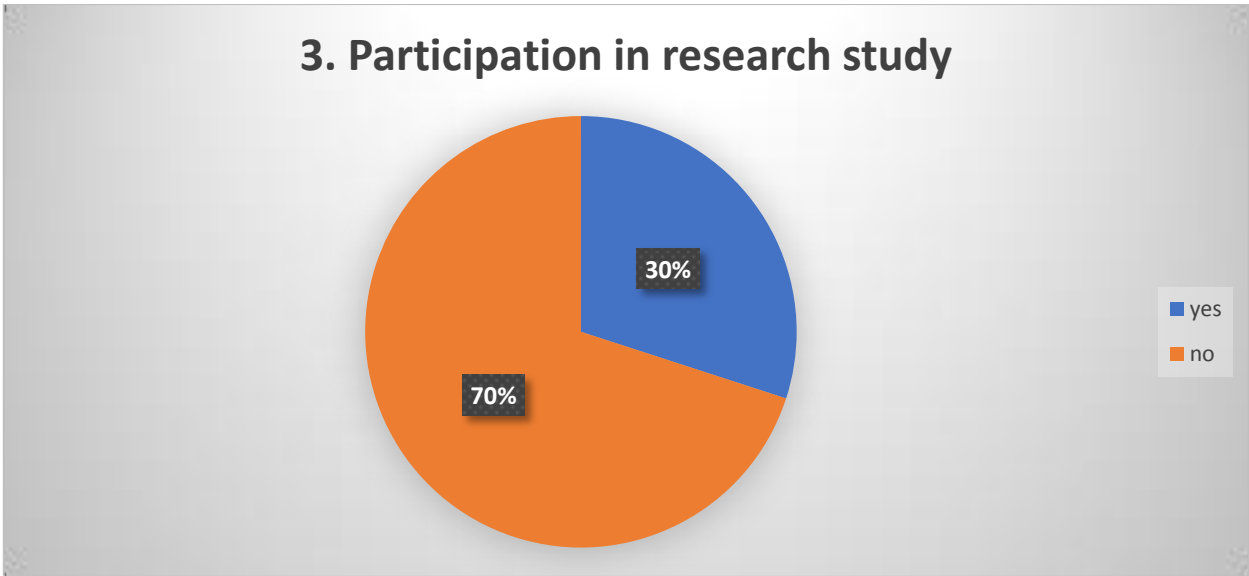
The responses show that 85% of the PG students were aware of the research methodology. They understood that a systematic research methodology is needed for a proper research analysis. Many of the students showed keen interest in research. They wanted to pursue this as a career.

**Q2.** Can you name a few key steps involved in conducting research?



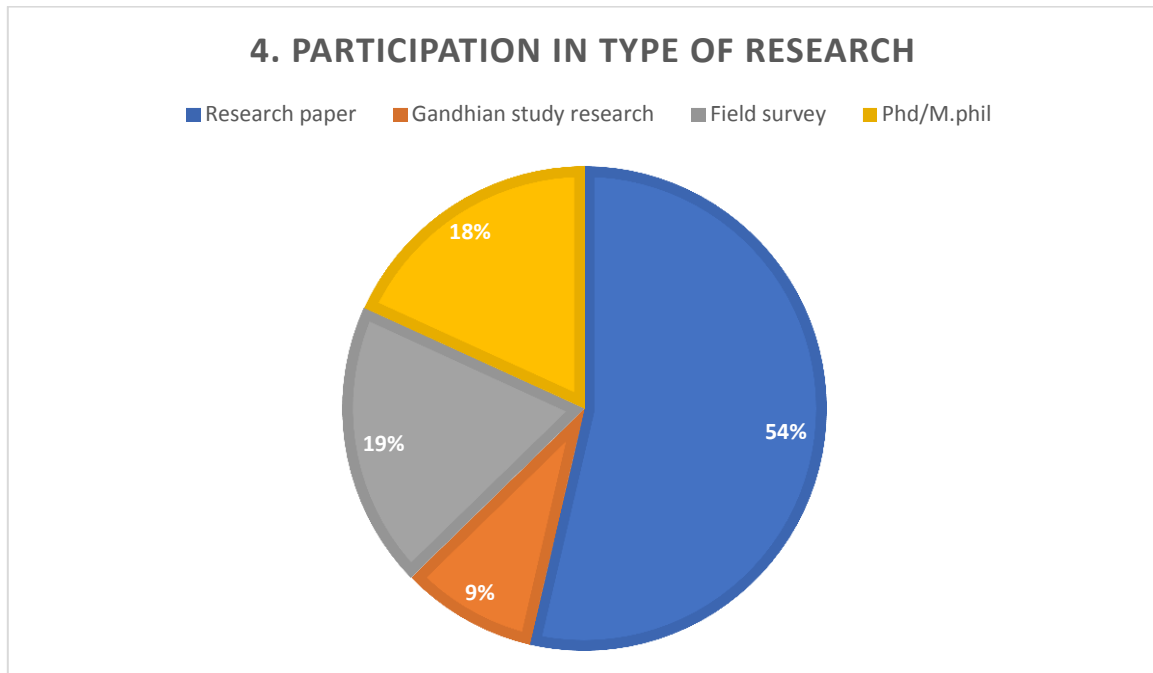
The responses show that all the students were having knowledge about the varied steps involved in research. 72% replied about data collection, 12% said that secondary data can be used, 15% emphasised on classification of data and 1% were fully confident about analysis of data techniques. The results were quite encouraging. They asked for more research methodology seminars, lectures and workshops for them to learn the varied research techniques.

**Q3.** Have you ever participated in a research study?



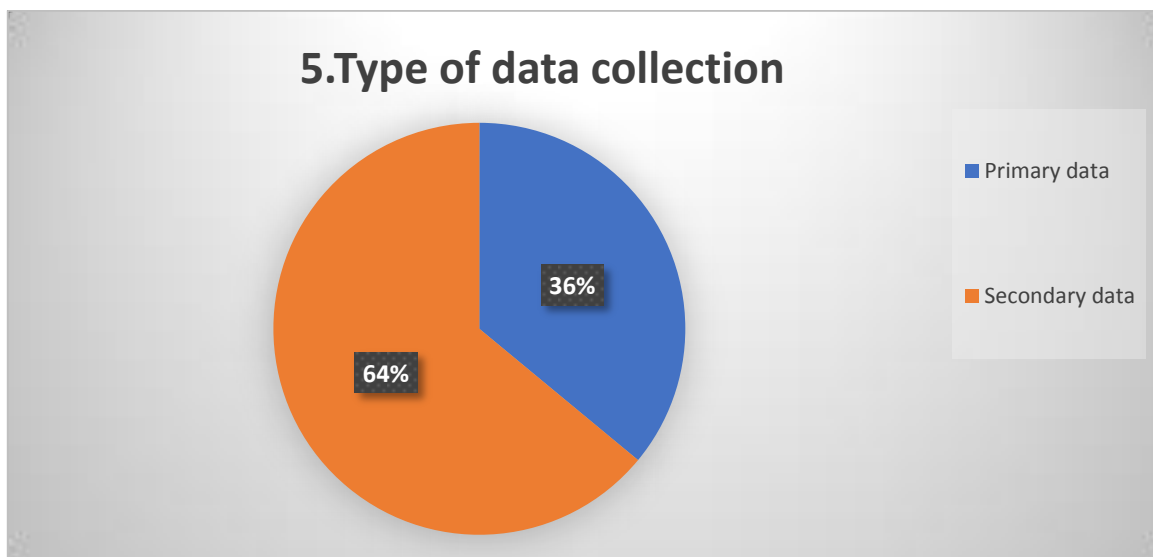
The responses show that a smaller number of students got the opportunity to participate in any research study. Only 30% students were directly involved in research projects. Rest 70% were keen to get a proper opportunity to get exposure in research. They wanted to write research papers but lack of exposure and in the absence of guidance, they could not do so.

**Q4.** If you ever participated in a research study? what type of research was it?



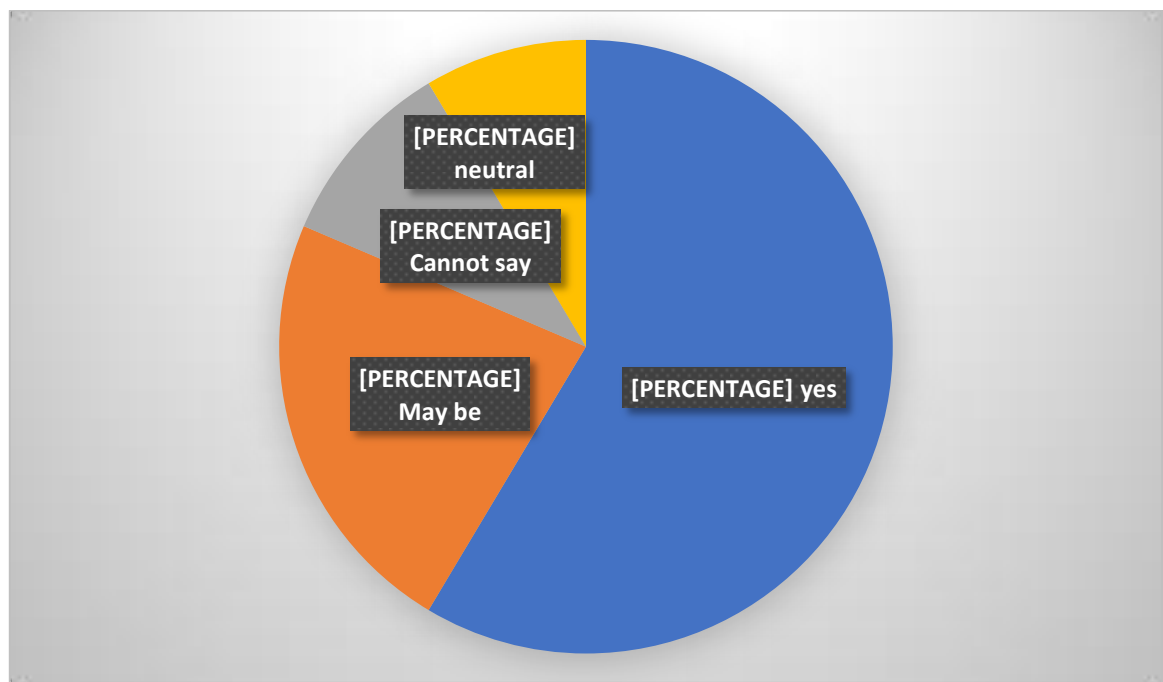
The responses highlight that 54% students wrote a research paper jointly/ independently on Commerce, Economics, English, Sociology and Computer Science. They could do so when it was an assignment given by their teacher or in collaboration with some research scholars.

**Q5.** What type of data did you collect for your research?



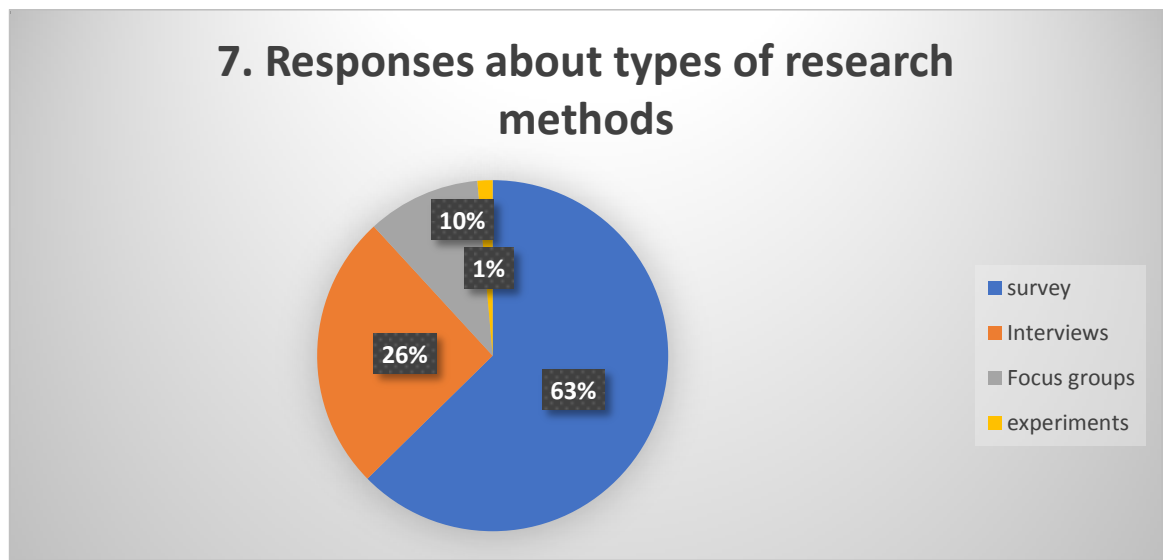
The responses show that 36% students collected primary data for the purpose of their research which was given as an assignment by the teacher. They chose such topic for research which needed primary data. The topic – Financial literacy, banking habits of the rural female, dropout rates from schools and finding its causes, the sickness rate after Corona. So they prepared questionnaires/schedules and interviewed people. Other students (64%) used secondary data for the purpose of their research assignment given by the friend who is a researcher or by the teacher. They used secondary sources like statistical abstracts, government reports, RBI reports, books, journals, websites for collection of data.

**Q6.** Do you think research is important for development in India?



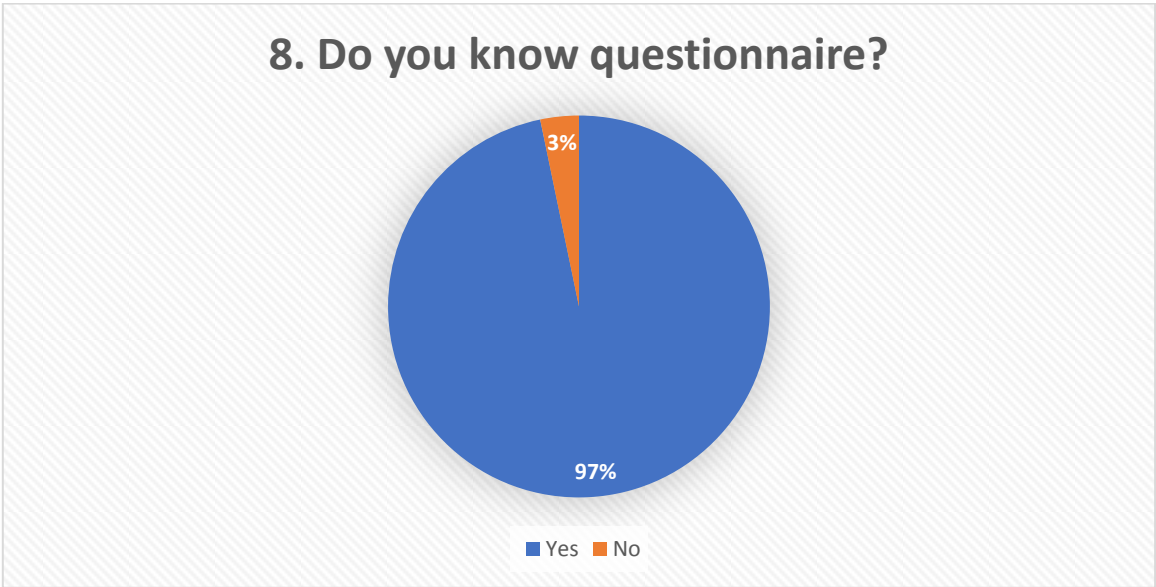
81% responses were in favour of need of research in India, of which 23% were a bit less confident about the need of research for the development of India. Only 19% were not aware of this fact. However, all the responses were curious about research in India especially on the growth and development, social indicators and political analysis.

**Q7.** Have you heard of the terms "survey," "interview," "focus group," and "experiment"?



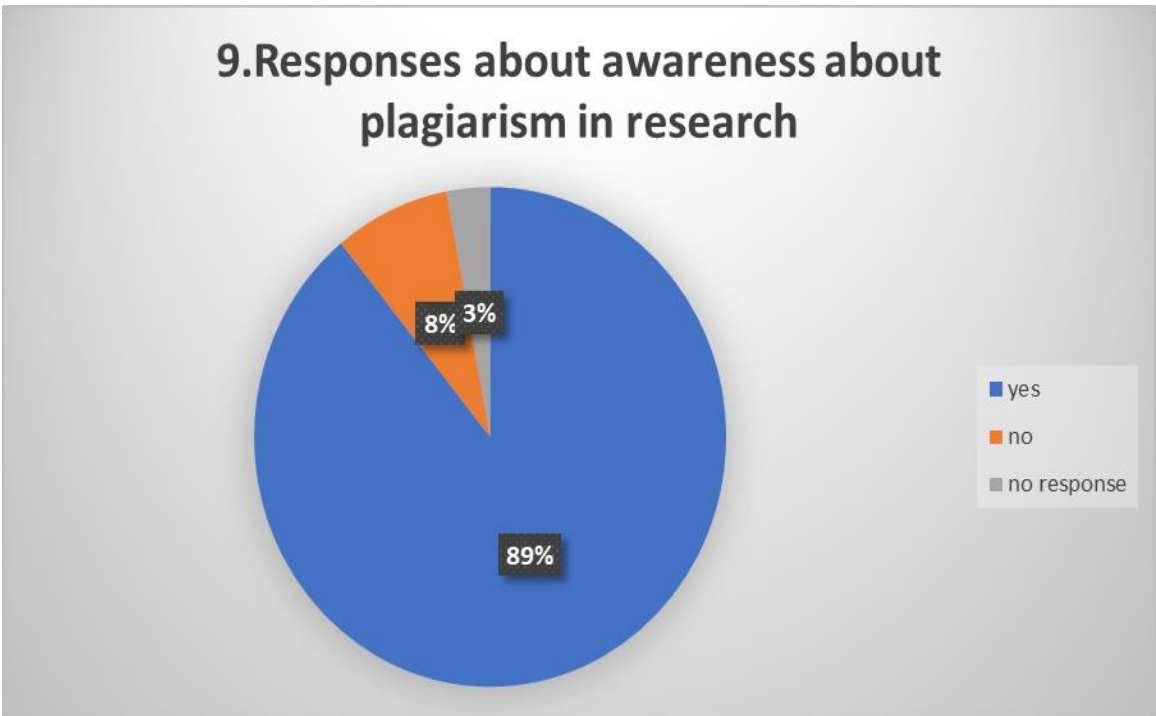
The responses were very much encouraging. 100% responses were aware of some or the other type of research method. 63% said about survey,26% about interviews,10% about focus groups and only 1% answered about experiments. The responses display that a little more leanings and teachings of research methodology will help to improve their skills of research methodology.

Q8. Do you know what is a questionnaire?



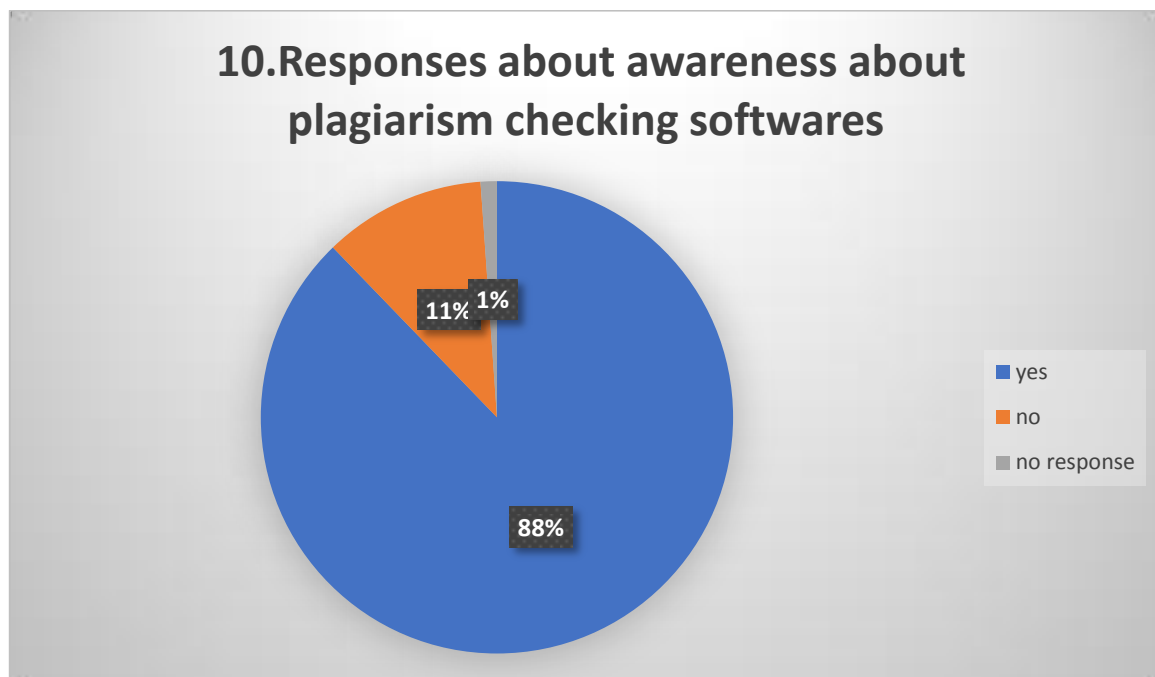
As is clear from earlier responses, all the students were sure about the most commonly used research method i.e. questionnaire. Only 3% could not reply in affirmative. This methos is required for collecting primary data in all spheres, be it Economies. Commence, Sociology, Psychology, commerce or any other.

Q9. Are you aware about the concept of Plagiarism in research.



With the increasing use of online research papers as references, the act of copying is on the rise. The academic integrity in research requires that plagiarism must be checked at all stages. Around 89% students said that they knew about plagiarism an its various forms.

**Q10.** Do you know about the software used to check plagiarism?



88% of the students were quite aware about the software used to check plagiarism. There are many software programs that can check for plagiarism, including Grammarly, Plagiarism Checker X, PlagScan, PaperRater etc.

**Q11.** Open ended questions

- a. Which research method do you think is most suitable for studying people's opinions on a particular issue?

**Answer:** The most suitable research method is survey, which allows the researchers to collect data from a large number of people by designing structured questions.

- b. Can you explain the difference between qualitative and quantitative research?

**Answer:** Qualitative research uses non-numerical data and quantitative research uses numerical data. Qualitative research uses methods like in-depth interviews, focus groups, and participant observation and quantitative research has surveys, experiments and questionnaires.

- c. What are the methods to collect data.

**Answer:** Researchers can collect data by varied methods such as surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations, and document reviews.

- d. Have you ever heard of statistical analysis?

**Answer:** Yes. Statistical analysis refers to the process of collecting, classifying and analysing data to understand the results.

- e. Name challenges faced in conducting research.

**Answer:** Researchers face many challenges like time constraints, data collection and management, funds and plagiarism and ethics.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The field survey report finds that there is general awareness about research methodology and plagiarism. There is lack of detailed and technical knowledge about research techniques. The survey recommends that more and more research methodology workshops must be organised to develop research skills of the students. They should be taught about act of plagiarism and the types of plagiarism. The curriculum can be designed in a way which encourages students to undertake research.

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