

Session - 13
Orientation Workshop for the Fresh Faculty Members

Teaching & Research: Obligation vs Choice



Md Abu Reza, PhD
 Professor
 Dept of Genetic Engg. & Biotech.
 University of Rajshahi





Institutional Quality Assurance Cell
 University of Rajshahi
 Date: 3rd November, 2025



Everybody does research !!

Better researcher he is, more success he will get

Even the Tea Stall Boy does research

- Collect data
- What are the socioeconomic–demographic characteristics of his customers
- Position of his stall and surroundings
- Interpret
- What quality of tea he will sell
- Conclude
- Action

Re-----Search

➤ 'Re' means ('prefix' once more, again, anew) OR (back; with return to a previous state)

➤ 'Search' means ('verb' means examine closely and carefully)

Together they form a 'noun' describing -

A careful, systematic study and investigation in some field of knowledge, undertaken to establish facts or principles

Defining Research

- Clifford Woody: Research-
 - Defining and redefining problems, formulating hypothesis/objectives
 - Collecting, organizing and evaluating data
 - Making deductions and reaching conclusions
 - Testing the conclusions to determine whether they fit the formulating hypothesis/objectives

Defining Research

- Research is an organized, scientific and systematic way to find answers to questions
- A careful investigation for new facts in any branch of knowledge
- Research is a systematic effort to gain new knowledge and Addition of information
- In fact, research is an art of scientific investigation
- Is a creative process

Why do we do research?

- Desire to get a research degree along with its consequential benefits
- Demands of the job, promotion
- For publication/patent
- Desire to get intellectual joy of doing some creative work
- Desire to be of service to society
- Desire to get respectability

Why should we do research?

- What is our position at this Institution?
- What do we deliver in the class?
- Knowledge !
- Who created it and how?
- As a faculty member of the University it is our responsibility to **"Create New Knowledge"**, at least try for it



Research is creating new knowledge.

Neil Armstrong

Your journey begins here



Teaching & Research: Obligation vs Choice

Motivating New Faculty at Rajshahi University



Understanding Faculty Roles

The Foundation of Higher Education in Bangladesh



Core Roles of Faculty

- **Core Role 1 : Teaching and Mentorship**
 - Imparting knowledge and fostering critical thinking.
- **Core Role 2 : Research**
 - Discovering, creating, and advancing knowledge.
- **Core Role 3 : Service and Administration**
 - Contributing to the university, profession, and community.



Mission

- **Three Pillars (The Tripartite Mission):**
 - Teaching
 - Research
 - Service



Core Role 2

Research

Advancing Knowledge in Bangladesh

Must be novel/new



Research Responsibilities

- "Research contribution" : University ranking/your ranking
- Create and contribute in the existing field of knowledge
- **You are expected to contribute to in your respective field through original research or intellectual work**
- This includes conducting studies, publishing papers, and presenting at conferences. Supports your career and national development
- Productivity/output
- Dissemination
- **Our student's future career also depends on it. So, we need to be serious about it and we are relying on you**




Teaching and research are not rivals—
they empower each other

Obligation vs Choice: What Drives Us?

- Is research just a job requirement, or is it a chance to create new knowledge?
- Reflect on what motivates you as an academic at Rajshahi University.
- **Passion is the key not obligation.**



The Power of Research

Why Research Matters for All Disciplines

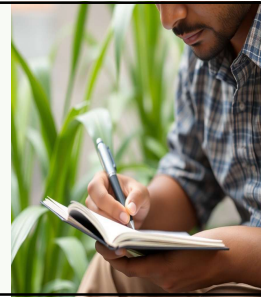


Benefits of Research for Faculty

- Incentives and recognition
- Opportunity of presenting research at International Conference abroad
- Professional growth and recognition
- Opportunities for collaboration
- Greater job satisfaction

Motivation: From Obligation to Passion

Finding Your Research Drive



Activity: Reflect on Your Motivation

Take 1 minutes to write down why you want to do research. Is it obligation, choice, or both?



How to Cultivate Research Passion

- Connect research to personal interests
- Seek out interdisciplinary questions
- Celebrate small wins

Research Leadership & Mentorship

Guiding the Next Generation



Why Mentor Research Students?

- Develops leadership skills
- Multiplies research impact
- Builds supportive academic community





Qualities of a Good Research Mentor

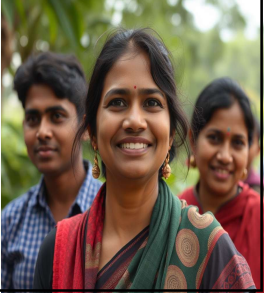
- Encourages curiosity and critical thinking
- Provides constructive feedback
- Models ethical research practices

Steps to Effective Mentorship

Step	Description
Listen Actively	Understand students' interests and challenges.
Set Clear Goals	Define research objectives together.
Foster Independence	Encourage students to own their projects.
Celebrate Success	Recognise achievements, big or small.

Overcoming Challenges in Research

Common Barriers and Solutions




Typical Research Barriers

- Lack of resources and Funding !!
- Fear of failure or criticism
- Uncertainty about topics

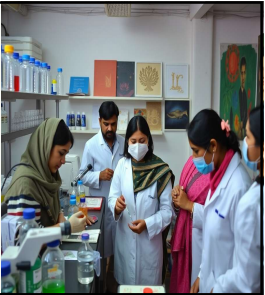


Strategies to Overcome Barriers

- Collaborate with colleagues
- Seek mentorship and training
- Start with small, manageable projects

Research Across Disciplines

Science, Commerce, and Arts in Bangladesh



Discipline-Specific Research

Science	Commerce	Arts
Experimental, data-driven, often lab-based. E.g., new materials, health advances.	Market studies, business innovation, economic analysis. E.g., new business models.	Creative inquiry, cultural analysis, literature. E.g., new interpretations or artworks.



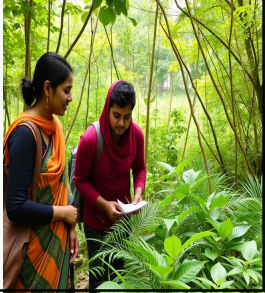
Interdisciplinary Research: The Future

Solving complex problems often requires collaboration across disciplines. Embrace opportunities to work with faculty from other fields at Rajshahi University.



Taking Initiative: Your Research Journey

Now : Practical Steps to Start



First Steps for New Faculty

- Identify your research interests
- Connect with potential collaborators
- Apply for research funding



Activity: Research Idea Brainstorm

- Take 5 minutes to jot down three research questions you are curious about.
- Share with a partner.



Support Resources at Rajshahi University

Resource	Support type	Contact
Research Office	??	??
Library	Access to journals and books	http://library.ru.ac.bd/
Mentorship Program	Guidance for new faculty	igac@ru.ac.bd

Inspiring Leadership in Research

Your Role in Shaping the Future



Becoming a Research Leader

- Model ethical research behaviour
- Encourage innovation in others
- Promote collaboration and inclusivity



“

Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It's about impact, influence, and inspiration.

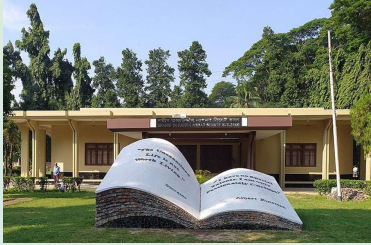


Final Thoughts: Obligation or Choice?



Embrace research as both your duty and your passion!

Thank You!



Together, let's lead the way in teaching and research at Rajeehi University.