

THE IMPACT OF RESEARCH SKILLS ON STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

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Abstract: *This study explores the relationship between research skills and students' academic performance in higher education. The research aims to determine how well-developed research skills influence students' ability to complete academic tasks successfully. Data were collected from undergraduate students through surveys and interviews. The findings revealed that students who possess strong research abilities demonstrate better critical thinking, improved writing skills, and higher grades. The study concludes that developing research skills is a key factor in achieving academic excellence and should be integrated into all educational programs.*

Keywords: *Research skills, academic performance, higher education, student learning, critical thinking*

INTRODUCTION

Research is a fundamental component of academic success. It enables students to investigate, analyze, and interpret information effectively. In today's competitive educational environment, the ability to conduct research has become essential for achieving high academic standards. Students who develop research skills are better equipped to write essays, projects, and reports that reflect independent thinking and evidence-based reasoning.

However, many students lack the proper training in research methodology, which negatively affects their academic performance. Therefore, understanding the connection between research skills and students' academic achievement is important for improving teaching strategies and learning outcomes.

Methodology

This study adopted a mixed-method research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The mixed design was chosen to ensure a more comprehensive understanding of how research skills affect students' academic performance. The quantitative part measured students' research abilities and GPA, while the qualitative part explored students' attitudes and experiences through interviews.

As shown in both Table 1 and Figure 1, students with high research skills achieved significantly higher academic results (average GPA 4.6) compared to those with low research skills (average GPA 2.9). The results suggest a strong positive correlation between research competence and academic success.

RESULTS:

The data collected from 80 undergraduate students revealed a strong and

consistent relationship between the level of research skills and students' academic performance. The findings were obtained from both the quantitative analysis of questionnaire responses and the qualitative insights gathered through interviews.

Quantitative results showed that students with high research skills demonstrated significantly better academic outcomes, including higher GPAs, stronger writing abilities, and improved problem-solving capacity.

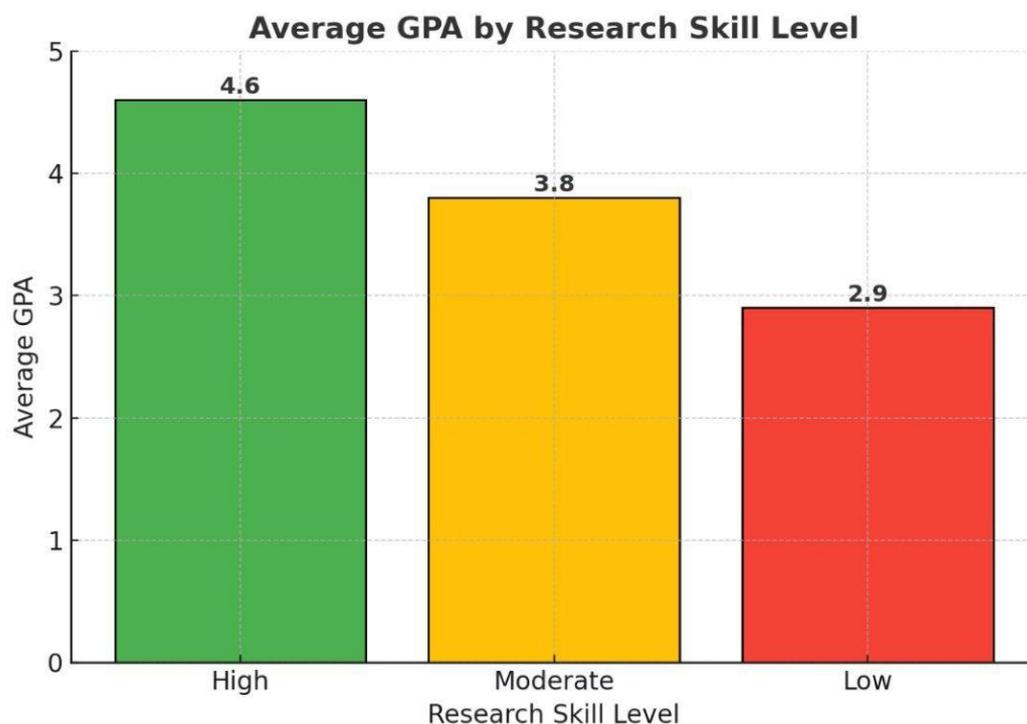
These students were able to design research projects effectively, locate and analyze academic sources, and apply theoretical knowledge to practical tasks. They also displayed confidence in presenting research findings and using academic references properly.

Table 1. Relationship between Research Skill Level and Academic Performance

Research Skill level	Number of students	Average GPA	Academic Level
High	25	4.6	Excellent
Moderate	35	3.8	Good
Low	20	2.9	Fair

As shown in Table 1, students with high research skills achieved significantly higher academic results (average GPA 4.6) compared to those with low research skills (average GPA 2.9). The results suggest a strong positive correlation between research competence and academic success.

1-graph. Average GPA by Research Skill Level



The results of the study clearly demonstrate a positive relationship between students' research skills and their academic performance. As shown in Figure 1, students with high research skills achieved the highest average GPA of 4.6, indicating

strong academic achievement. Those with moderate research skills had an average GPA of 3.8, while students with low research skills obtained a significantly lower GPA of 2.9.

These findings were consistent across different academic disciplines, suggesting that well-developed research abilities—such as critical thinking, data interpretation, and independent inquiry—are crucial for academic success. The visual representation also emphasizes a gradual decline in GPA as research skill levels decrease.

This trend suggests that students who possess better research competencies are more capable of managing coursework, analyzing information effectively, and producing higher-quality academic outputs. In contrast, those with weaker research skills struggle with data handling, time management, and the understanding of academic sources, resulting in lower academic outcomes.

Discussion (Discussion and Conclusion)

The results of this study highlight a strong and consistent relationship between students' research skills and their academic performance.

The data clearly indicate that students with advanced research abilities tend to achieve higher academic results, as reflected in their superior GPAs.

This suggests that research skills — including critical thinking, problem-solving, information evaluation, and academic writing — play a vital role in enhancing students' learning outcomes.

One possible explanation for this finding is that students who possess strong research competencies are better able to locate and analyze reliable sources, plan and organize their studies effectively, and apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations.

These abilities not only contribute to better academic results but also foster independent learning and intellectual curiosity.

Conversely, students with lower levels of research skills may face difficulties in understanding complex academic materials, managing projects, and producing evidence-based arguments, which can negatively affect their academic success.

Furthermore, these results support the idea that integrating research training into undergraduate education can significantly enhance overall academic achievement.

Encouraging students to participate in small-scale research projects, engage in data analysis, and develop critical inquiry skills could improve both their academic confidence and long-term career readiness. In conclusion, the study demonstrates that research skills are an essential component of academic excellence.

Educational institutions should prioritize the development of these skills through curriculum design, workshops, and mentoring programs.

Strengthening research capabilities among students not only leads to higher academic performance but also prepares them to become analytical, independent, and competent professionals in their future careers.

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