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Why student do what they do while selecting research topic

The selection of a research topic is one of the decisive factors in successful completion of research projects at masters as well as at doctoral level. Sometimes, it takes the form of a phobia and students spend a lot of time in searching for a good research topic. For this purpose, different strategies are adopted for example visiting library, taking advice from senior fellows and teachers, however, still few end up with replica topics. The phenomena of choosing a topic that has already been researched in indigenous or international context are preferred (as observed personally, discussion with national and international teachers). So there is need to identify factors that influence on the selection of research topic at local context.

Academic research in the field of education has addressed a wide variety of topics ranging from research in core areas of education (including educational psychology, administration, assessment, curriculum, research) to interdisciplinary fields. From personal experience, observation of list of thesis done in previous years, communication with teachers and colleagues clarified that there are certain areas in which flux of research in more than others. Current study aims to identify methods of selecting a topic while planning a research project. The students who are in final years of masters, although study a full course on research, however, still they feel that selection of research topic is not an easy task. The doctoral candidates, however, have already some exposure to research, so it can be assumed that preferred method for selection of a research topic might be different from master's level student. Based on these assumptions objectives of the study are as follows:

- a. To identify methods used by the students for choosing a research topic at masters level/ *to identify factors that influence on students to choose a research topic at masters level*
- b. To identify methods used by the students for choosing a research topic at doctoral level/ *to identify factors that influence on students to choose a research topic at doctoral level*