



collection purposes. Forty students of M.Phil and 40 students in Ph.D program were selected for interview. A simple random sampling technique was employed for data collection purposes. A structured interview schedule for students was developed.

After reviewing the related literature, researchers developed an interview schedule for students under the supervision of the research expert. All the questions of the interview were closely related to the objectives of the study. Researchers conducted the interviews personally, telephonically, and through zoom meetings with students.

## RESULTS

### Q#1: Before the pandemic, what were your prospects regarding your research work?

Most of the university researchers respond that, before the pandemic, they have planned their work systematically and they are fully energized for performing their research work. They got time schedules for meetings from their supervisor for research work. They set their minds for regular work. They start thinking about how, when, and from where they will start their work. Before the pandemic, university researchers think that research would be proved a fruitful activity for them. They will interact with different people and get their viewpoints on their research problem. They will perform experimentation with in a systematic manner and they enjoy the different perspectives of research.

### Q# 2: Did the unexpected outbreak of the pandemic effect on your research work? How much

During COVID-19, researchers respond that their pre-planning and work schedule for research work totally gone opposite according to their thinking. Researchers stated that they were psychologically disturbed. They were unable to manage their time framework of research. Researchers from pure sciences respond that their experimentation needs treatments for a specific time period. They have no proper laboratory access for long experiments. They were assigned research work in pairs but due to the pandemic pairs of researchers meet hardly in the university for doing their work with collaboration. The burden of all work is sometimes put on one researcher. Quality of work was also affected due to the unexpected outbreak. Researchers stated that there were some learning gaps exist in their work due to the unexpected outbreak.

### Q#3: What kind of problems do you face in your research work during COVID-19?

**Q3** University researchers face many problems in their research work during COVID-19 such as one of the most challenging problems for the researchers is to collection of data from the respondents. University researchers responded that they felt hopeless at the time of the data collection procedure because respondents did not respond to them appropriately. Researchers use both ways for data collection (Manual, electronically). Many respondents did not respond to them on electronic tools; in this situation, researchers approached them physically. For collecting data physically, researchers have to travel to other areas. Traveling was also a major problem for university researchers because there was no transport available during COVID-19. Traveling consumes their precious time. On the other hand, the researchers who belong from far-flung areas face the residence problem in hostels because they were not allowed to stay in hostels. They use private hostels for living. It increased the researcher's expenses and effect on their budget.

### Q#4: How much your research expectation come true during COVID-19?

Researchers respond that, a little bit their expectations come true. The time period they spent in research work very awful for them. They worked only for the completion of the task. Their planning was totally disturbed. Learning gaps are not covered due to the extreme SOPs.

### Q#5: How much your supervisor support you and show his/her responsibility toward your research work during COVID-19?

University researchers showed positive responses toward their supervisors. They indicated that they have full support from their supervisors. Their supervisors provide them time to time feedback on a regular basis. Their supervisors took special permission for their students for laboratory experimentation from higher management once a month. Supervisors call their students in small groups and different shifts by following the SOPs. On the other hand, the students from social sciences respond that their supervisors conduct their online meetings through Zoom application. Their supervisors guide them through recorded video clips and YouTube links.

### Q#6: How do you conduct your research practical/field work during COVID-19? e.g. access to gadgets, internet, respondents, Laboratories for practical work, and paid websites for your research work.

Researchers stated that they have no proper access on paid websites and internet protocols at their homes; they were unable to justify their research problem with relevant literature. Researchers from pure sciences respond that they have no proper infrastructure at their home for experiment. Sometimes, they need some chemicals or other needed apparatus from other cities. They did not receive their experiment tools delivery on time and they got late for their work. Researchers respond that they have no access on library books. They were unable to consult their research problem with their seniors, class fellows, and other experts due to the social distancing issues and other COVID-19 SOPs.

### Q#7: During COVID-19 as a researcher, what type of difficulties did you feel in your research work without any departmental training, seminar, and workshop?

University researchers from social sciences responded that they feel difficulty in many steps of their research work. Especially in writing a thesis, they have no training and practice on how to write the different chapters of the thesis? How they can analyze the numerical data? They have no idea about thesis format; they need a training session for thesis format. They need training for writing citations and bibliography. Moreover, researchers from pure sciences also reported that they need training about how to use the different lab tools for multiple purposes.

### Q#8: According to you, how we can overcome these problems? Give Suggestion?

University researchers suggest that futuristic students should have IT expertise. Universities should allow the research students for residence in hostels therefore researchers feel security and mentally satisfaction. In the future, flexible Time frames should be designed and followed for research work. One supervisor should be allowed a maximum of 5 students for supervision at a time in M.Phil and 2 students for Ph.D. Therefore, supervisor can provide maximum time to each student for guidelines. Laboratory access should be open for all students by following the SOPs.

## DISCUSSION

The above results of the study show that university researchers faced many problems in their research work during COVID-19 such as data collection issues, traveling, hostel residence, access to science laboratories, internet protocol, paid websites, lack of departmental training, and shortage of research instruments, less knowledge of ICT tools as well no expertise in academic writing skills. These problems badly affect their research performance and research experience. However, there are several solutions for dealing with these issues in the future. Finally, it was discovered that the participants encountered a variety of issues when conducting scientific research as graduate students, but that they acquired experience in the process and that this experience will lead them in the future. In light of these findings, it is reasonable to conclude that the difficulties encountered by university researchers during the scientific research process aided in the development of their research talents.

## CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 epidemic has been by far the most significant issue that education and research have faced this century. The pure and social sciences research aspects of research have both been significantly impacted. To address the knowledge gaps about the impacts of COVID-19 on university academics, a variety of techniques have been used.

## Recommendations

The following suggestions have been made (1) university researchers should develop good relationships with their potential subjects or responders, (2) time management should be incorporated into the discussion of the subject so that students are more aware of the importance of time management and can better build routines and set objectives, (3) the subject research method should be offered in all semesters rather than one semester to give student-researchers reasonable time to complete the required research output with high quality, (4) supervisors should be assigned a minimum number of students; (5) open access to laboratories should be allowed to students for experimentation. It would be helpful for university supervisors to be trained on how to prepare future researchers with essential research capabilities. As a result of this research, it is possible to guarantee that academics are aware of potential difficulties that graduate students may experience before they arise. Those interested in pursuing postgraduate study should be aware of the challenges they may face.

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