

A call for Paradigm Shift in Postgraduate Research Methodology Training

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Abstract

This article reflects on the experiences of an emerging researcher who attended two research capacity development courses. It details the developmental and eclectic approach used to enhance research methodology and proposal development workshops. The article also attempts to critique the predominant approaches to training postgraduate students as future researchers. The paper draws on two personal scenarios, one largely immersed in an African context (the OSSREA Research Methodology Training) and another from a European perspective (the DAAD-DIES ProGrant Workshops). According to the author's observations, both the OSSREA and DAAD-DIES workshops addressed the multidisciplinary needs of participants and equipped them with much-needed research skills. Given that these programmes deal with emerging researchers from diverse and multidisciplinary backgrounds, the diversity and culture of the course facilitators are remarkable. The article narrows the discussion by recognising the relevance of training received outside of the terrain of formal university training. Finally, the article makes recommendations for a paradigm shift in research methodology training.

Keywords: Research methodology training, multidisciplinary approach, postgraduate students, emerging researchers.

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