

## **Mid Semester PG Theses Review May 2011**

### **Moving Towards World Class Research**

Dissertation work for M. Pharm. Theses has been done for more than 50 years in Gujarat. Gujarat played pioneering role in set up some trends for this throughout the country. Students were expected to work on their research project with inputs from their supervisor either from academia or industry. This work would be then examined by an external examiner upon submission of their dissertation work. The problem of this mode of evaluation was that either the work would be accepted with a few comments or in very rare cases, some additional work would be suggested. In both the cases, student would have little scope for going the extra mile after such a long and hectic pace of the final submissions. Some institutions have a practice of reviewing the progress through seminars. But this again would be done by an internal review committee.

In order to improve the quality of the dissertation work, GTU decided to do away with traditional model of bringing in the experts after submission of theses. It was decided to hold Mid-term reviews, by inviting external examiners from national level elite institutions, experts from industry and academia on the review panels.

The new model has opened up the gates of addressing the missing links in the work of a student at the right time. Two months away from their dead lines, they are just in the right mind set to absorb every comment on their work which is coming from none other than the acclaimed experts in their fields! At the same time they are not put under the intense stress they would otherwise undergo during their final defense of their work.

The experts on the other hand were happy too that their long journey and endeavor was being put to good use as there was ample scope for the students to incorporate/modify their work before final submission.

GTU has declared continuously that the quality of education is what it wants to address. And we are happy that the first steps have had such a huge impact on its Master's Program. Total 366 students were examined at six different centers in different zones by 110 experts in Pharmacy along with their individual supervisor. The reviews were conducted in a manner which even the most critical of teachers accepted, as parallel to the best of the conferences they had attended. Every student has been given the Review Comments by the experts, based on which they will give the final shape to their research project work. We are sure that the state-of-the-art of each course has been discussed during the review which has also served as an open forum for all the experts to interact.

### **Feedback from Experts**



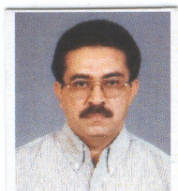
Mid-term review can be useful in order to make any necessary mid-course corrections. The students will get the advantage of outside expert advice. However, I have a suggestion to make:

There must be at least two Reviews, one in the beginning when the work is planned and the approach is designed out. The second review near the period of completion. This way they will be confident to defend their thesis at the end.

I congratulate GTU on this innovative approach to maintain the quality of research.

**Prof. C. J. Shishoo**  
Hon. Director, B. V. Patel PERD Centre

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Research project review for M Pharm students during midway of research is an excellent process initiated by GTU.

As a team member (from industry) of the review committee, I am able to guide students, that what additional research work is required to make it more meaningful in terms of Intellectual Property (IP) generation and making it commercially viable project in future.

I am sure such initiatives of GTU will help academic institutes & industry to work together for research work.

**Nagesh Nanda**

General Manager, Product Development,  
Torrent Research Center  
Gandhinagar



I must congratulate GTU for taking initiative of midterm review of M. Pharm. Project work and applying this to all the colleges under the influence of GTU. This, in a way will ensure the correct direction of research and will also ensure that the student gets to interact with the people in industry or / and other senior people in the academics. This review process indeed was a good experience and I could see how the students realized the errors, method of research and the

approach they have taken.

The timing of this review also gives a chance to student to step up the quality of the work and even the presentation of the data which can tremendously benefit the student as well as the college.

I think this is a great initiative to open up the research mentality in this country and will have positive effect on the quality of research as well as the student.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to be the part of this process and I shall continue to offer this service happily in future.

**Dr. Vikas S. Shirsath,**

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