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NEED/IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESIS (ES)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

LIMITATIONS

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

REFERENCES

APPENDIX/ANNEXURE

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- Hunker, H.L. and A.J. Wright (1963), "Factors of Industrial Location in Ohio" Ohio State University, Nigeria.

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- Garg, Sambhav (2011): "Business Ethics" Paper presented at the Annual International Conference for the All India Management Association, New Delhi, India, 19–23

UNPUBLISHED DISSERTATIONS

- Kumar S. (2011): "Customer Value: A Comparative Study of Rural and Urban Customers," Thesis, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

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WEBSITES

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UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION – NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY TEST: ISSUES AND PROSPEROUS

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ABSTRACT

The impact of the incessant increasing heed towards UGC-NET exam from the faculties and students made it indispensable that qualifying in this exam is offered a variety of opportunities mainly in academics. This paper addressed the paramount issues regarding Court judgment on UGC-NET exam, date of applicability, validity and procedure for obtaining of NET/JRF certificates, State and Central OBC list, appearing in related subjects and applicability of State Eligibility Test. This survey also aims to identify the factors determining the growth of UGC-NET exam by analysing 51 NET exam session's data. The predominant objectives of this paper are to collate the total qualified candidates to Commerce qualified candidates and to ascertain the reasons for growth of qualified candidates. Descriptive statistics are habituate to analyze the secondary data using SPSS version 20. There exist a strong positive correlation (0.928) between explanatory variable and response variable with greater dispersion under Range (59,695) and Standard deviation (15,967.49). The primary cause for this grater dispersion is due to major alchemy placed by the UGC. This paper suggested managing & sustaining the transformation in the exam pattern, considering mutation in the exam pattern to utterly objective type of exam led to 339% growth rate in entire subject and 287% growth rate in the commerce subject. Modifications in the qualifying cut off rate from 15% to 6% led to 104% growth rate in the entire subjects and 112% growth rate in the commerce subject.

KEYWORDS

UGC-NET issues, JRF, NET, NTA, commerce.

JEL CODES

I23, I28.

INTRODUCTION

The National Educational Testing Bureau of University Grants Commission (UGC) conducts National Eligibility Test (NET) to determine eligibility for lectureship and for award of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) for Indian nationals in order to ensure minimum standards for the entrants in the teaching profession and research. NET in various subjects is being conducted by UGC-NET, UGC-CSIR NET and ICAR-NET in their respected disciplines. The tests are conducted twice in a year generally in the months of June and December. The test for Junior Research Fellowship is being conducted since 1984. The Government of India, through its notification dated 22nd July, 1988 entrusted the task of conducting the eligibility test for lectureship to UGC. Consequently, UGC conducted the first National Eligibility Test, common to both eligibility for Lectureship and Junior Research Fellowship in two parts, that is, in December 1989 and in March, 1990.

From December 2014 to July 2018, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) conducted the UGC NET exam but from December 2018 onwards, NTA is conducting the UGC National Eligibility Test. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has entrusted the responsibility of conducting UGC-NET to the NTA. The National Eligibility Test (NET), also known as UGC-NET or NTA-UGC-NET, is a test to determine eligibility for college and university level lectureship and for the award of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF).

The main reason to undertake this research is to address the issues and to know major changes placed by the UGC. In the June 1993 session total qualified NET/JRF candidates in all the subjects were 1475, in the June 2003 session that accounts to 1644, whereas in the June 2012 session it grown to 60794 and in the December 2018 session it declined to 47884, this paper attempts to reveal the rationale behind these fluctuations in different sessions. In the June 1993 number of subjects offered for NET/JRF eligibility was 83 by the end of June 2019 it was 101 subjects recently added subjects are Yoga and Sindhi

OBJECTIVES

1. To address the main issues relevant to UGC-NET exam.
2. To compare Commerce qualified candidates to entire qualified candidates.
3. To find out the reason for growth of qualified candidates.
4. To explore the opportunities for qualified candidates of UGC-NET exam.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Aim of the research paper is to analyze the qualified NET/JRF holders of the past UGC-NET exam, study is a descriptive type which tries to analyze the growth of UGC-NET exam and address the issues relating to UGC-NET. Secondary data sourced from RTI information, notifications, Public notice, clarification, information bulletin, annual reports and amendments of UGC and published papers in the internet. The data used for this study is qualified candidates of NET and JRF since June 1993 to December 2018 along with cut off percentages in the recent past. Collected data are analyzed using Correlation, Mean, Standard Deviations, Frequency, Frequency Polygon, Range, Maximum and Minimum of statistical tools in the SPSS software version 20.0

JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The candidates who qualify for the award of JRF are eligible to pursue research in the subject of their post-graduation or in a related subject and are also eligible for Assistant Professor. The universities, institutions, IITs and other national organizations may select the JRF awardees for full time research work in accordance with the procedure prescribed by them. Candidates qualifying for the award of JRF will be eligible to receive fellowship of UGC under various schemes, subject to their finding placement in universities/IITs/Institutions. The validity period of the offer will be two years w.e.f. the date of issue of JRF award letter. However, for those candidates who have already joined M. Phil./ Ph.D., the date of commencement of Fellowship shall be from the date of declaration of NET result or date of their joining, whichever is later. For candidates who desire to pursue research, the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) is available for five years subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. UGC has allocated a number of fellowships to the universities for the candidates who qualify the test for JRF.

JOBS FOR NET/JRF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

University Grants Commission (UGC) announced in 2013 that the candidates who clear the NET successfully would be eligible for lucrative jobs in public sector undertakings (PSUs). PSUs can use UGC-NET scores for the recruitment process of the posts of executives in their organizations in disciplines like science (R&D), management, corporate communications, human resources, and finance. This step taken by the UGC would also increase the number of students taking the UGC-NET examination. Scope and salary is corporate level, now a day's many Corporate companies are opting NET cleared candidates for their vacancies or positions mainly for research investigation.

UGC has also created its job portal which is regularly updated as and when job opportunities in various sectors arise. Registered candidates in this portal are NET (41,464), NET-JRF (11,216), SET (10,538) and Ph.D. (20,749).

The academic job portal is a new initiative taken by the University Grants Commission which helps NET/SET/Ph.D. qualified candidates to bring their academic profile to the attention of universities/colleges and other employers with the ultimate aim to get them a suitable job. The portal facilitates candidates to register and create their profile online.

The academic job portal facilitates the employers to search and browse academic profile of candidates available on this portal. The Portal also facilitates employers to register and post the job vacancies on this portal so that candidates can apply against the vacancies.

For the appointment of assistant professor in the colleges and universities NET/JRF are allowed qualification.

ISSUES IN UGC-NET EXAM

These issues arise due to many confusion, clarification and miscommunication in the aspirants and appointing authority on UGC-NET regulations. It is an attempt to clarify the issues.

What is the validity of UGC-NET certificate?

The validity of UGC-NET certificate of Eligibility for Assistant Professor / Lectureship is forever.

Are the candidates with Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) eligible to appear in NET?

The candidates having Post Graduate Diploma awarded by an Institution should in their own interest, ascertain the equivalence of their diploma with Master's degree of recognized Indian universities from the website of Association of Indian Universities (AIU) (www.aiu.ac.in).

I obtained my MA degree in Political Science. Can I appear for NET in Public Administration?

I possess an M.Com degree. Can I appear for NET in Management? As per Notification for UGC-NET, the candidates are advised to appear in the subject of their post-graduation only. The candidates, whose post-graduation subject is not included in the list of NET subjects, may appear in a related subject.

Am I eligible to apply for the post of Assistant Professor in 'Population Studies' having also cleared NET in the same subject while my M.Sc. degree is in 'Statistics'?

Suitability of a candidate is within the purview of the appointing authority**.**

Are the State Governments empowered to raise/incorporate qualifying standards prescribed under the UGC regulations?

UGC has prescribed the minimum qualifications for appointment of teachers and other academic staff through "UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for appointment of Teachers and other academic staff in Universities and colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards in Higher Education, 2010" amended from time to time. The appointing Authority may raise the qualifying standards without deviation from the minimum qualifications prescribed by UGC; if it so desires

Has UGC reduced the percentage of qualifying candidates from top 15% to 6%?

No, it is clarified that the earlier qualifying criteria for UGC-NET involved qualifying top 15% of those candidates in each subject and category, who obtained the minimum required marks in paper-I, paper II & paper-III. This was applicable till UGCNET held on 22.01.2017.

From UGC-NET held on 05.11.2017, it has been decided that 6% of the total candidates who appear in the UGC-NET examination will be declared qualified. In effect, the number of qualifying candidates shall not decrease.

University Grants Commission clarifies on 14/7/2017 in the public notice that earlier qualifying criteria for UGC-NET Exam involved qualifying top 15% of those candidates in each subject and category, who obtained the minimum required marks in paper-I, paper-II & paper-III according to the category of the candidates. Subsequent to the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala, University Grants Commission had revised the procedure and criteria of qualifying candidates and as such it has been decided that 6% of the total candidates who appear in the UGC-NET examination will be declared qualified.

The qualifying percentage out of appeared candidates in the previous 4 UGC-NET examinations is given below:

TABLE A

Examination	Qualifying percentage out of Appeared
June 2015 UGC-NET	4.83%
December 2015 UGC-NET	4.96%
July 2016 UGC-NET	4.08%
January 2017 UGC-NET	3.99%
Future UGC-NET	6.00%
(With revised qualifying criteria)	

As such the number of candidates who would qualify in the future NET Examinations is likely to increase.

Are candidates belonging to the backward category in their state, eligible for concession in eligibility conditions, fee and qualifying cut-off marks in UGC-NET?

The National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) for Junior Research Fellowship and Eligibility for Assistant Professor is a national level examination. The candidates falling in the non-creamy layer and whose category is included in the central list of Other Backward Classes (OBC) maintained by National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) on their website www.ncbc.nic.in. Hence, states OBC list is not applicable.

What is the procedure for obtaining the duplicate JRF Award Letter / NET Certificate of Eligibility for Lectureship / Assistant Professor in case of loss of the original?

In case of loss of original JRF Award Letter and / or NET Certificate of Eligibility for Lectureship / Assistant Professor, the candidate can apply for a duplicate NET Certificate / JRF Award Letter by producing the following documents:

1. Application of the candidate stating the details along with his/her date and Roll Number of UGC-NET.
2. Self-attested copy of FIR regarding loss of the relevant document(s).
3. A demand draft of Rs. 100/- drawn in favor of 'Secretary, University Grants Commission'.

As all NET Certificates of Eligibility for Assistant Professor are being issued electronically, the candidate should provide his/her E-mail Id with contact / mobile number.

I have cleared the UGC-NET held on 22.01.2017 for Eligibility for Assistant Professor. What is the date of my eligibility for the post of Assistant Professor?

The date of eligibility for the post of Assistant Professor is the date of declaration of NET result, which in this case is 29th May, 2017 or the date of completion of Master's degree or equivalent examination with required percentage of marks within two years from the date of declaration of NET result, i.e. by 28th May, 2019, whichever is later.

What are the subjects in which NET is conducted? NET in various subjects is being conducted by UGC in disciplines falling under Humanities (including languages), Social Sciences, Forensic Science, Environmental Sciences, Computer Science and Applications and Electronic Science. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) conducts the UGC-CSIR NET for other Science subjects, namely, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences and Earth Atmospheric Ocean & Planetary Sciences jointly with the UGC and by Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (under Indian Council of Agricultural Research) for Agriculture related subjects through ICAR-NET. The candidates may go through the respective websites for these three examinations in order to learn about the subjects in which NET is conducted.

Can a candidate qualified in UGC-NET be appointed on a teaching position in an agricultural university? or

Similarly, a candidate who has cleared the Joint CSIR-UGC Test or the ICAR-NET is eligible for teaching in a traditional university, like say, University of Delhi?

National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by the three bodies, viz. UGC, CSIR and ICAR are mutually recognized. Nevertheless, suitability of a candidate for any teaching position lies in the jurisdiction of the appointing authority.

Will I receive my JRF Award letter / certificate of Eligibility for Lectureship / Assistant Professor for the Joint CSIR- UGC Test from UGC?

The candidates qualified for JRF under the UGC scheme from the Joint CSIR-UGC Test held in December 2016 onwards, shall receive their JRF Award Letters from UGC and their e-certificates of Eligibility for Assistant Professor shall also be uploaded on the UGC website www.ugcnetonlin.in. The e-certificates of candidates qualified for Lectureship / Assistant Professor only, will also be issued by UGC. The JRF Award Letters / certificate of Eligibility for Assistant Professor / Lectureship of earlier examinations held prior to December 2016 shall be issued by CSIR.

My e-certificate of Eligibility for Assistant Professor is not getting downloaded from UGC website www.ugcnetonline.in. How can I download it?

Most often, the candidates face this difficulty due to use of the same e-mail Id for multiple number of candidates while applying online for UGC-NET or the Joint CSIR-UGC Test. The candidates are therefore, advised to use their own e-mail Id while filling their online applications. However, in case their e-certificate is not getting downloaded, they can log on to the UGC website www.ugcnetonline.in and click on the relevant link out of the following as per your examination:

Click here to download e-certificate of UGC-NET from June 2011 onwards

Click here to download e-certificate of Joint CSIR-UGC Test (from December- 2016 onwards)

Click here to download e-certificate of UGC-NET for June 2010 and December 2010.

And then follow the instructions therein sequentially.

Are professional qualifications, viz. Chartered Accountancy (CA) / Company Secretary / Indian Cost & Works Accountancy (ICWA) valid qualifications to appear in NET?

No, these qualifications do not make the candidate eligible to appear in NET.

My Master's degree is from a foreign university. Kindly advise me regarding my eligibility for appearing in NET.

The candidates with foreign post-graduate degrees, desirous of appearing in NET, are advised to ascertain the equivalence of their Master's degree with corresponding Master's degree of recognized Indian universities from Association of Indian Universities (AIU) New Delhi.

I possess Master of Laws degree from a foreign university. Can I take the UGC-NET examination?

The candidates with Master of Laws degree can appear for UGC-NET only if their Master's degree in Law has been equated with corresponding Master's degree of Indian universities by Bar Council of India, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi

In case, a candidate commits an error in filling his/her name or the name of parent(s) or in his/her date of birth while applying for NET, what is the mechanism for getting the error rectified?

The candidate should submit an application to Head, NET Bureau, University Grants Commission, University of Delhi South Camus, Benito Juarez Marg, New Delhi-110 021, with complete details along with self-attested copies of documents such as Matriculation / High School / Higher Secondary which contains the requisite information.

How can I get my NET certificate verified from UGC?

Genuineness of JRF Award Letters and NET certificates of Eligibility for Assistant Professor issued to the candidates can only be got verified from UGC by the appointing authorities, i.e. the universities / colleges / institutions / State Public Service Commission's / Public Sector Undertakings / Central Government Bodies etc. UGC does not entertain such requests from individual candidates.

Does the State Eligibility Test (SET) conducted prior to June 2002 confer all India eligibility upon the qualifying candidates for the post of Assistant Professor?

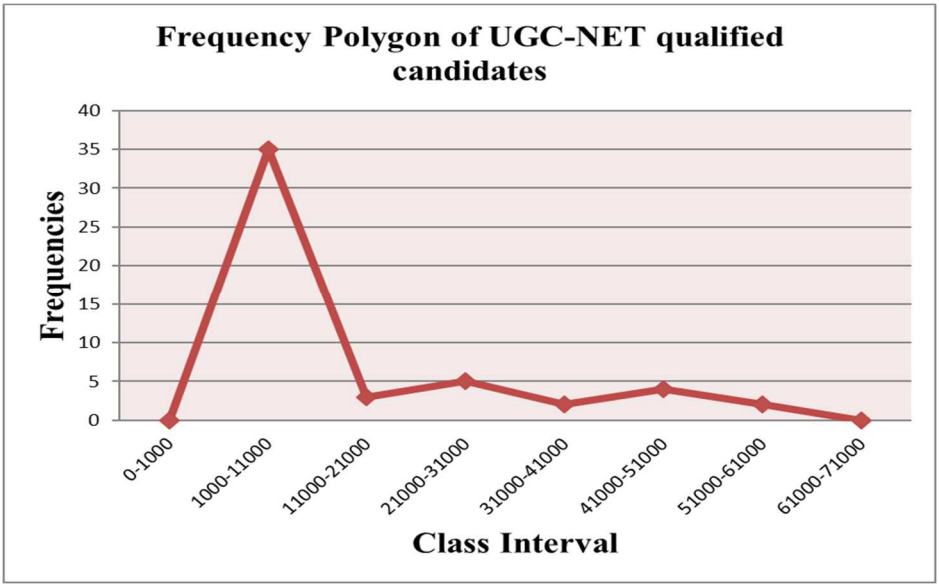
The candidates who have cleared the State Eligibility Test (SET), earlier known as State Level Eligibility Test (SLET), accredited by UGC for eligibility for Assistant Professor held prior to 1st June, 2002, are exempted from appearing in NET, being eligible to apply for the post of Assistant Professor anywhere in India. For SET held from 1st June 2002 onwards, the qualified candidates are eligible to apply for the post of Assistant Professor only in the universities / colleges situated in the state from where they have cleared their SET.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE 1: SHOWING FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL NUMBER OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES IN UGC – NET EXAM SINCE JUNE 1993 TO DECEMBER 2018

Classes (Exclusive)	Frequency	Relative Frequency	Percentage Frequency
1000-11000	35	0.68	68
11000-21000	3	0.06	6
21000-31000	5	0.1	10
31000-41000	2	0.04	4
41000-51000	4	0.08	8
51000-61000	2	0.04	4
Total	51	1.00	100

CHART 1



Source: Information received from UGC under the RTI Act.

From the frequency table and graph it indicates that there are 69% of frequencies falling between the 1,000-10,999 class intervals it is due to low GER in higher education and M.Phil. degree was allowable qualification for the appointment to assistant professor in the universities and Colleges which reflected in the qualified

candidates (from June 1993 to June 2010 total qualified candidate numbers were falling below than 9,528). When the UGC changes in its exam pattern to fully objective type of examination, numbers in the qualified Candidates increased like flying to sky from 13859 (in December 2011) to 60794 (June 2012).

TABLE 2: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS OF ENTIRE QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO COMMERCE QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

Qualified Candidates	N	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Total Qualified Candidates in all Subjects	51	59695.00	1099.00	60794.00	667764.00	13093.42	15967.49
Total Qualified Candidates in Commerce	51	6681.00	2.00	6683.00	57219.00	1121.94	1722.99
Valid N (list wise)	51						

From the table above, it shows that the total qualified candidates from the entire subject have an average value of 13093.41 and in Commerce subject has an average value of 1121.94. This value is categorized as good because in the frequency table we can see in the entire subject there are 38 frequencies before this value. We can understand from the range values that there is a greater dispersion in the entire subject 59695 (minimum 1099 and maximum 60794) also greater dispersion in commerce subject 6681 (minimum 2 and maximum 6683). From the Standard deviation we can conclude that there is a larger variability (1722.99) in the Commerce subject and it is too far from the mean (1121.94) compare to entire subject variability (15967.49) and the mean (13093.41). Thus, the greater dispersion in the range and standard deviation are due to major changes placed by the UGC gradually, like shifting from partial objective type of exam pattern to fully objective type of exam pattern, changes in the qualifying cut off percentage and computerized online exam pattern. The variability in the qualified candidates is impacted by the major changes in the examination.

TABLE 3: CORRELATION BETWEEN ENTIRE QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO COMMERCE QUALIFIED CANDIDATES IN UGC NET EXAM

		Total Qualified Candidates in all Subjects	Total Qualified Candidates in Commerce
Total Qualified Candidates in all Subjects	Pearson Correlation	1	.928**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	51	51
Total Qualified Candidates in Commerce	Pearson Correlation	.928**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	51	51
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

Hence, the Correlation Coefficient between total qualified candidates in all subjects on total qualified candidates in Commerce is 0.928. This indicates that the correlation between total qualified candidates in all subjects on total qualified candidates in Commerce is strong positive correlation and we can say that as number of qualified candidates in all the subjects increase total qualified candidates in Commerce.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- Changes in the exam pattern to fully objective type of exam led to 339% growth rate in total qualified candidates and 287% growth rate in the commerce subject.
- Changes in the qualifying cut off rate from 15% to 6% and cancellation of June 2017 session led to 104% growth rate in total qualified candidates and 112% growth rate in the commerce subject, it means number of qualified candidates are higher in 6% qualifying cut off rate than 15% qualifying cut off rate.
- Computerized online exam patter led to decelerate in the number of qualified candidates by 15% in entire subject and 3.73% in commerce subject. The main reason for this downward trend is due to necessity of proper training is required to attend computerized online exam for other subject is highly necessary than commerce subject. Even though NTA has established Test Practice Centres, the rate of success is very low.

SUGGESTIONS

According to the result I suggest, to increase the number of qualified candidates UGC should make a better awareness for computerized online exam because the people who are low computer literacy rate are unable to perform well in the exam hence, there is a downward trend. This paper concludes to manage & sustain the change in the exam pattern, because any major changes in the exam pattern led to positive growth rate in the number of qualified candidates, it proved in the past session results, so gradual changes lead to positive growth rate.

Keeping one subject as descriptive type of exam is better idea to check the writing skills, precise writing and application of complete theme on a given topic. Some of the subjects are based on problematic concepts one has to solve in the classroom also, necessary of descriptive type of exam truly intuitive. Sometimes objective type of exam pattern leads to quartile probability answer of given question, so I suggest maintaining one subject as descriptive type of exam.

CONCLUSION

This research proves UGC compliance with major changes and implementing efficiency lead to greater dispersion in the qualifying candidate's numbers which helped to entice the aspirants. High Court Judgement of Kerala and Cancellation of M.phil as qualifying criteria for appointment of assistant professor in the Universities and Colleges impacted on qualifying numbers rate positively, this we can see in the average qualifying candidate is 13,093.41 whereas Range 59,695 and SD are 15,967.49 for this greater dispersion major changes are in exam pattern also there is a strong positive correlation between entire subject qualifying candidates to Commerce subject qualifying candidates. Even though UGC has given clear clarification regarding the issues of UGC – NET exam still many people are in confusion to evacuate this confusion all the issues assembled and addressed under one tree. It could be concluded that the influence of bringing various measures has been varying in all the sessions.

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research can investigate with comparison of other subjects to entire subjects, categories wise, geographical area wise and total to women share wise in the NET/JRF qualified candidates. Further research can also be conducted on job opportunities for NET/JRF holders.

LIMITATIONS

1. The data available in the secondary source is considered for the present study.
2. Comparison is made with only Commerce subject to entire subject, hence not considered all the subjects to give accurate result.

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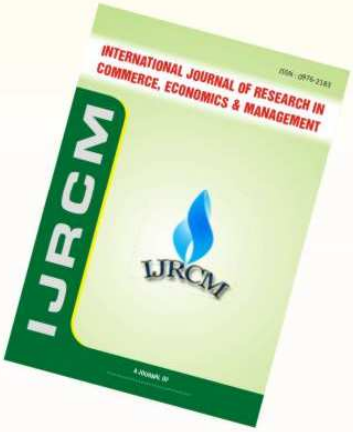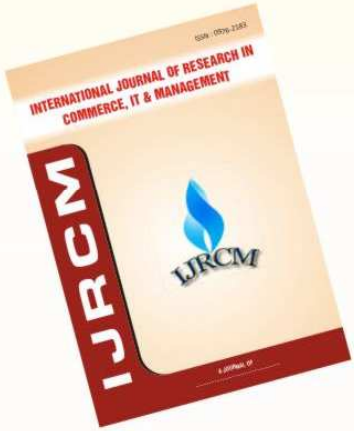
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