**Honorable VC Sir Podcast Transcript**

Dear All,

Brothers and Sisters,

Warm greetings from Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, a Deemed-to-be University.

I am happy to welcome you for this next episode of ‘Dear All’. Today, I will be sharing my thoughts on the topic of **"Educational Research – An Overview".**

The educational research is a process that begins with the realization that a problem exists in the educational system. Educational research does not in itself solve the problem. It provides a tool and much needed evidence that can guide the hard-working & caring educators to solve the prevailing problems in the field of education.

Educational research is an approach that enables teachers to think better, develop and understand educational principles, and make increasingly broad and accurate generalizations towards teaching. Educational research enables professionals to identify concepts, contexts, treatments, and outcomes, to make predictions, and to establish cause-and-effect relationships. Educational research has generated a large body of predictive knowledge about factors that predict various outcomes that have social importance like student performance, student behavior, career choices and career success.

As the time has progressed, education has emerged as one of the global social phenomena. The central goal of any education policy is to bring basic education to individuals and transform them into social participants who are adapted to face this complex and changing world. The status of educational research varies with the context be it local, national or international. It is influenced by the prevailing socio-economic, historic, geographic, political, educational and linguistic conditions.

With the introduction of the world wide web, Internet, communication tools, virtual reality and various other new technologies, it is imperative to say that there is an urgent need to evaluate the influence of these evolving trends on the learner and learning. Further, with the development of teaching as a profession and education as a science, it becomes necessary that the teacher finds time to research so that education based on sound scientific principles be delivered. We must acknowledge that effective research plays an important role in enhancing the validity of the educational decisions.

Educational research is a practical activity occurring at four distinct and connected levels. The first level consists of collecting data to find out what outcomes are occurring in an educational setting. At the second level, researches attempt to establish cause-and-effect relationships. The third level concerns itself with determining how far the conclusions of a research study can be generalized. At the fourth level, researchers examine the theoretical principles that explain the results they have observed in a research study or series of studies. In addition to hypothesis testing and building theories, educational research must also concentrate on applied research that can address practical problems faced in teaching.

No educational research whether practical or theoretical can be conducted without identifying, and operationally defining or describing in detail the educational research variables. These descriptions allow educators to develop realistic depictions of persons, programs, and contexts related to education so as to have a better understanding of what is happening in the educational setting. Educational research tends to analyze the interaction between the person, the program and the environment with the sole target of improving the quality of the learning.

My dear students, education is a complex process. Quality education is increasingly recognized as playing a vital role in the progress of society. The assertion that good educational policies are more likely to be developed if the process is informed through quality educational research is generally accepted. Educational researchers challenge old beliefs, create new ones, and then turn the challenge upon the new beliefs. By taking a scientific approach, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers are able to make informed decisions. The goal of all who conduct research, whether it is aimed at producing broad generalizations, or solving problems, should be to make the quality of the research as high as possible, so that the conclusions will stand up under any type of critical evaluation.

Educational researchers suggest ways for teachers, instructional designers, and other educational decision makers to choose more productive methods of educational practice. In a nutshell, effective research helps increase the quality of educational decisions and allows professionals to participate in the creation and dissemination of new knowledge and practices. At Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, a Health Science Deemed-to-be University, we have realized the importance of educational research and accordingly developed a dedicated center in the name of Centre for Health Professions Education to ensure that the process of educational research is nurtured and supported in all possible ways.

We wish you all the best in each of your endeavors. At this time, I also wish you the best of health. I eagerly look forward to staying in touch. Till then...

Namaste, Jai Hind.