

# Research Trends in Engineering Field

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## Abstract

The paper attempts to find out the trend in research areas in engineering discipline. The data collected from the feature column entitled 'Theses of the Month' published in the University News during the year 2006 to 2011. The paper highlights the various facts like chronological distribution of subject areas of research, subject covered etc.

**Keywords: Engineering, Ph.D. Thesis, Engineering Research**

## Introduction:

### University News - a weekly news journal

The association of Indian universities started its publications from Feb 1, 1963 with the objectives to fill up the lacuna by providing an effective link at the national level between various educational institutions on one hand and those interested in the educational development on the other hand. Further, it was aimed to promote national integrities and establishing closer liaison between universities and the general public. It helps highlight an education problem in proper perspective and to keep the public informed of the development in the educational world. Even though this publication began in 1963, the institution has on a long history of 75 years. [1]

University News'-- a weekly news journal contains information about higher education in general and Indian higher education in particular. It is the only Indian journal referred internationally for authentic information about Indian higher education. The regular features of the Journal are the Articles that delineate current, national and global thinking; Campus News; Doctoral Theses accepted by Indian Universities; Advertisements for Openings in Universities, Institutions, Colleges and Research Institutions; Admission Notifications; and Calendar of Events. It is also a valuable source of information on developments in the field of higher education, youth affairs, sports and culture and is very popular among Indian universities and academia for its regularity and the richness of its contents. Time to time the special numbers of the Journal is brought out on different vital issues to collect, disseminate and document the views of the experts. A widely circulated medium of communication among Indian universities, colleges, and other institutions of higher learning and research, it is indeed an indispensable reading for all those connected with higher education. [2]

**Scope:** The Scope of the study is to search the feature column entitled 'Theses of the Month' published in a University News from the year 2006 to 2011.

### Objectives of the study:

1. To find out the number of Doctoral Theses (PhD) in Engineering
2. To find out the subject areas of the Doctoral Theses (PhD) in Engineering
3. To find out the geographical area wise distribution of Doctoral Theses (PhD)

### Methodology:

The methodology is used for this study to collect the data by searching the feature column entitled 'Theses of the Month' published in the University News for the years 2006 to 2011. The data collected pertaining to "Engineering" field on Doctoral Theses published on in the University News. Small cards are prepared for the data analysis.

### Observation and Findings

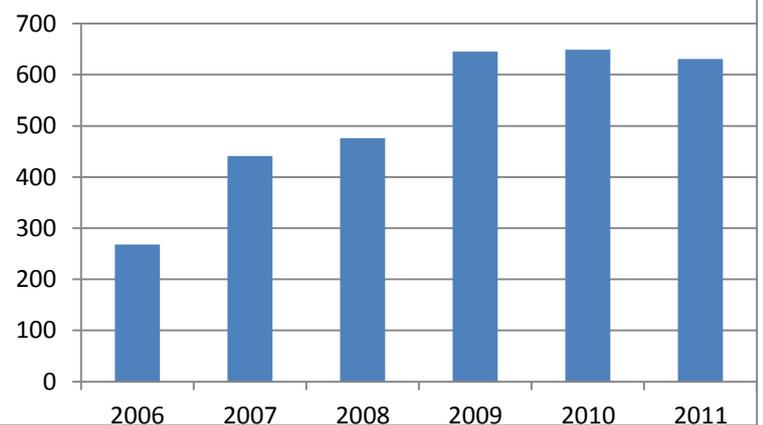
#### Year wise distribution of the number of Ph. D. theses.

It can be seen from the Table -1 given below that during the period January 2006 to December 2011, the total number of theses appeared in the feature column entitled 'Theses of the Month' was 3110 in the University News. Further, it can be seen that the highest number of PhD thesis published are 649, during the period January 2010 to December 2010. The data from Graph-1 indicates there is up word trend in the PhD studies in engineering field from the year 2006 to 2011.

Table-1

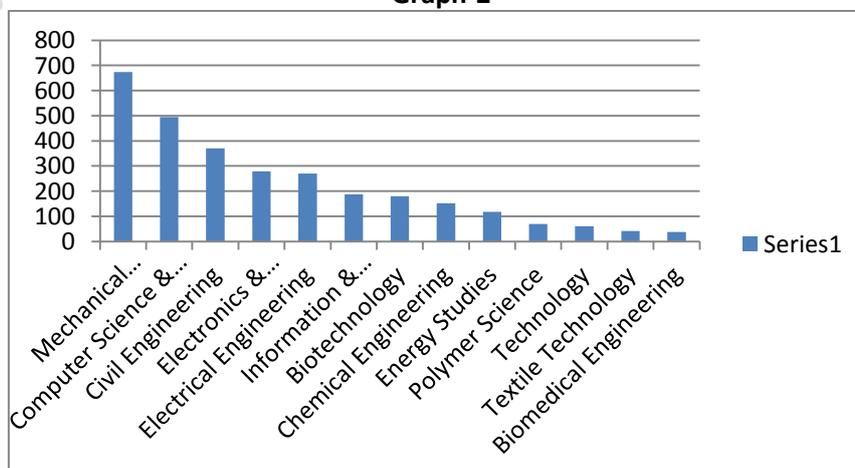
Year	No. of Ph.D.'s
2006	268
2007	441
2008	476
2009	645
2010	649
2011	631
<b>Total</b>	<b>3110</b>

Graph-1



#### Subjective wise distribution of Ph. D. Theses

Graph-2



It can observe from the Graph-2 given above, which indicates that during the year 2006 to 2011, the total number PhD theses accepted in the field of Mechanical Engineering is 674, whereas 495 in the Computer Science, 370 in Electronics & Telecommunication, 270 in Electrical Engineering, 270 in Information and Communication Engineering, 180 in Biotechnology Engineering, 152 in Chemical Engineering 117 in Energy studies, and only 70 in Polymer Science.

### **Conclusions:**

1. It can observe that more than six hundred Ph. D. completed every for year in 2009, 2010 and 2011. It indicates that engineers are more and more interested in undertaking doctoral research work.
2. The Mechanical Engineers hold heights (21.67%) interest in doctoral research work. The Computer Science Engineers are in second position (15.91), Civil Engineers (11.89%), E&TC (8.97%) and so on. It indicates that the there is considerable scope in the research areas in the engineering fields.
3. The Universities/Institutes like Anna University, IIT Delhi, Kochin University of Sciences and Technology, Andhra University are the most preferred organizations for undertaking research in the engineering field.
4. It has been observed that the some of the universities don't appear in the feature column entitled 'Theses of the Month' published in the University News
5. In India, the total number of all the universities is about 569, however, only 109 universities are covered in the feature column entitled 'Theses of the Month' published in the University News.

### **About Author**

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