

## ASSESSING GRADUATE STUDENTS' ACQUISITION OF RESEARCH SKILLS IN UNIVERSITIES IN CROSS RIVER STATE NIGERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOTAL PERSON

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### ABSTRACT

This paper assessed graduate students' acquisition of research skills in universities in Cross River State Nigeria for development of the total person. Survey design was adopted. Two research questions and one hypothesis were isolated to give direction to this investigation. 3018 graduate students in the two universities constituted the population. 300 of them were drawn as sample using stratified random sampling technique. Data were collected using researchers-constructed instrument called "Students' Acquisition of Research Skill Questionnaire (SARSQ). Data collected were subjected to statistical analysis with the use of descriptive statistics (Mean Rating) and Independent t-test statistical techniques. Results obtained indicated that graduate students have low research skills acquisition. They acquire the highest skills in reading, oral presentation/communication and information gathering and least skill in analysis. A significant difference exist between male and female graduate students in their research skills acquisition with the male having upper hand. It was recommended that graduate students should be made to participate in more research oriented activities, so as to enhance their research skill acquisition for development of the total person.

**Keywords:** Graduate Students, Research Skills Acquisition, Total Person Development, Gender, Universities.