



An Exploration of Factors Affecting the Motivation of Post-Graduate Research in Sindh: Students' Perception

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Abstract

Purpose

According to web metric world ranking 2016, there is no public or private Pakistani university among the top 600 universities of the world. As far as the motivation of post-graduate in Pakistan is concerned, the supervision of researchers for retention of students and completion of research degree are the major critical issues. The Primary focus of this study is to explore the key factors affecting on motivation of post-graduate research students through the perception of students in the various fields.

Design/Methodology/Approach

For this purpose, we have focused on the sample of four universities (public and private universities) in Sindh, Hyderabad province. Universities were also stratum into 3 samples in terms of disciples: Engineering, Agriculture and Management science. Here particularly M.Phil and PhD research students were focused. The structured 5 likert questionnaire is used as an instrument for data collection. The multiple regression analysis is applied for research analysis.

Findings

Results showed that research supervisor and research facilities were insignificant but research course work is found significant impact on motivation of post-graduate research in Sindh. On basis of results it is recommended that in each studied disciple has to design policies for motivation among post-graduate research students especially research course work should be taken in consideration on important basis for better motivation of post-graduate research in future.

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INTRODUCTION

The decline in quality of Pakistan's university can be deduced from the current status of web metric world ranking of universities. According to web metric world ranking 2016, there is no Pakistani university private or public among top 600 universities. The research quality is matter for world ranking, so trends show that decline of research education in Pakistan.

The research is defined by ⁱⁱMoses that: "Research is organized and investigation process for discovering previously unknown problems and development of new solutions of problems and construction of original work of significance.

The quality of postgraduate research the supervision is major issue for retention and timely completion of postgraduate research students. The quality of research is directly or indirectly related to facility in university, research courses, quality of teachers and research supervision by supervisors (Margare, 2002). There is general feeling by teachers and students that quality of research is not at required level and there are many fields in which postgraduate programs are offered but quality of research not present at standard level.

The main aim of university is to discover new knowledge and sustain that knowledge for next generations. Furthermore, quality assurance is the university would be said for resolving all issues related

to quality of research, around 132 HEC recognized Universities/institutes of which 73 are public universities and 59 are private universities. One key question in higher education of Pakistan, there is only expansion of higher education but quality of research education need to answer in terms of poor quality, insufficient resources and monopoly by public universities.

If, we look ⁱⁱⁱHigher Education of Pakistan HEC recent ranking 2016, 100 marks were allocated as follow, out 100 marks, 15 were for quality assurance, 30 were for teaching, 41 were for quality of research and 14 were for finance and facilities.. You would find major marks were given for quality of research so, not only public universities and private universities should work on this part or component for domestic ranking but also for better rank in world level.

Statement of Problem

Supervision of post-graduate research is not satisfactory in Pakistan; he took sample of 60 undergraduate students from only one university International Islamic university (Mahmood, 2011). So, based that sample size in the field of research we don't accept representation of entire country. Facilities in higher education were significant for quality of education in Pakistan in both private and public universities. But, the motivation of post-graduate research depends on number of factors including as research courses, facilities,



quality of supervision, financial resources and quality of teaching for postgraduate research (Hussain, 2014). Primary focus of this study to explore necessary factors affecting motivation postgraduate research students in various fields such as Engineering, Agriculture and Social sciences that were not studied with respect to post-graduate by pervious researchers only quality of education was communicated in general perspective. Presently enrolled students in programs M-Phil/MS and PhD few practical observations have been done such as delay program completion, quality may not at international standard and most of them would not complete their enrolled programs so, only list of enrolled students you will find at both private and public universities rather than list of completed of post-graduate programs offered by universities. Only admission in post-graduate program doesn't achievement of higher education but completion on time and quality of research is important factor.

Research Questions

The following were questions guided of this study:

1. Does research supervisor impact on motivation of post-graduate research students in Sindh, Hyderabad?
2. Does research course work impact on motivation of post-graduate research students in Sindh, Hyderabad?
3. Do research facilities impact on motivation of post-graduate research students in Sindh, Hyderabad?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Factors impact on high quality of research in Pakistan. According to this study the quality of research is critical in Pakistan and numbers of factors are responsible for this such as facilities and supervisors guidance are most critical to quality research. According to findings of this research facilities are satisfactory but supervisor was not satisfactory so, improvement is required in supervision level for quality of research in Pakistan (Mahmood, 2011). Based on study results it is recommended that the necessary training should be provided to supervisor for quality of research and they should be motivated through monetary and non-monetary benefits for better quality of research in Pakistan.

Most of the times research students are attached with single supervisor. Each supervisor have different exposure and research expertise. So impact of all this resulting the quality of research and it seems questionable and challenging (Mafa2, 2011). In recent era, research students are dynamically changing their attitude towards the work supervision and its quality. They have expectations from their respective supervisors. So for measuring the characteristics of research student and supervisor there should be an instrument to explore the relationship. (Watson, 2016). Based on discussion, below hypothesis has been developed to measure the significance of supervisor on motivation of postgraduate studies.

H1: *There is significant impact of research supervisor impact on motivation of post-graduate research students in Sindh, Hyderabad.*

In 2014 Sha di had found some motivational factors for post-graduation study. According to him internal motivational factors are the maximum knowledge on particular theme/topic and a decent job and external factors are influence of peers and fulfil one's own and parents' dreams. Along with that the research work is also important to be understood by research student (Wen, 2014). Based on introduction, this hypothesis has been developed to measure the impact of course work on motivation of research students' postgraduate studies.

H2: *There is significant impact of research course work impact on motivation of post-graduate research students in Sindh, Hyderabad.*

Now research facilities are major concern as per study in Malaysia. Now universities are focusing on research environment and proving research trainings to the research graduates. Rather focusing on current study, universities should improve the research facilities of research students, like improving their skills with the help of workshops and trainings (T. Subahan Mohd Meerah, 2011). According to the study and

reviews of multiple researchers, hypothesis has been developed to measure the facilities required for research and their impact on motivation of research students for postgraduate studies.

H3: *There is significant impact of research facilities impact on motivation of post-graduate research students in Sindh, Hyderabad.*

Factors affecting quality of higher education in Bangladesh: A case study of selected private universities. The expansion of private universities cannot be ignored day to day in Bangladesh, the main focus of this study to find most critical factors which are responsible for poor quality of research in Bangladesh private universities. 42 questions were asked from 20 selected private universities. Results showed that most of universities are unable to produce quality of research work due part time faculty, poor infrastructure, digital lab facility and low level of research motivation among students (Habibulah, 2012). It is suggested that based on this research results Private Universities act should be implemented and as per requirement permanent faculty to be hired for better quality of research in future.

Factors affecting quality of students' research work: Students' Perception in Takrodi. It is a general concept that the quality of research is declining and most of people have no idea about what is really mean by "Quality" in terms of research. The objective of this study to explore factors according to students' perception which are responsible for quality of research work in Takrodi, Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) is used in this study for data analysis (Benson, 2015). According to findings of this study student's project writing skills and overall policies impact on quality of students' research work.

Factors affecting research productivity in public universities of Kenya. The importance of quality of research in University cannot be undervalued due to new ideas or knowledge generation, enhance image of institution and economic status etc. The purpose of this study to find relationship between aggregate times allocated for research work, qualification of research student, availability of funds for research and overall research environment with research output. Combination of both stratified sampling and simple sampling is used for data collection and 242 respondents were selected. Results of this study indicated that all studied variables have significant impact on research output, so based on results it is suggested that the both policy makers and University authorities should design and implement policies for acceptable results in quality of research (Kendagor, 2012).

A study exploring student's satisfaction in higher education in Pakistan. The objective of this research to find students motivation in higher education by considering main factors such as courses offered, classroom facilities, learning environment and teachers' expertise. The sample size for this study was 350 from both private and public universities. According to findings of this study regression analysis results showed that all studied variables are positive and significant on students satisfaction in higher education in Pakistan but teachers' expertise is found most critical among all variables. It is suggested that both private and public universities should provide training according to current requirement and necessary resources to be provided for better quality of teaching among universities (Rehman, 2010).

The students' satisfaction in higher Education and Its importance in Pakistan. Students' satisfaction is importance for timely completion of degree and quality of education. The focus of this study is student facilities and factors affecting the perception of student. Results showed that there is high demand by students' hostel facilities, medical facilities and transport facilities as well as learning environment and teacher expertise (Hussain, 2014).

Effective supervisory for postgraduate research studies in Malaysia. The supervision for research students is considered very important and supervisor will guide to students in both course work and research work. According to this study the social setting, expertise of supervisor and supervisor personality are responsible for relationship between supervisor and student. According to results of this study the positive relationship between supervisor and student can improve the study progress and research progress and supervisors should be trained for developing more expertise quality of postgraduate research studies in Malaysia (Abiddin, 2011).



METHODOLOGY

Research Design

Exploratory designs for this study; according to exploratory research design is gaining insights of research problems and defines these problems for understanding level.

Population of Study

The population of study consists of 200 postgraduate students M.phill/MS and PhD from various disciplines such as Engineering, Agriculture and Management science, who have completed their course work and enrolled last 5 years. Four universities were studied Isra university Hyderabad, Mehran university Jamshoro, Sindh university Jamshoro and Agriculture university Tando Jam.

S #	Name of University	Gender		Program		Total
		Male	Female	M.Phil	Phd	
01	Isra, Hyderabad	25	25	25	25	50
02	Mehran, Jamshoro	25	25	25	25	50
03	Sindh, Jamshoro	25	25	25	25	50
04	Agriculture, Tando Jam	25	25	25	25	50
Total number of respondents						200

Sample Size

The sample for this study is consists of 200 postgraduate students M-Phill/MS and PhD, sampled from 04 universities. Stratified sampling technique was used to stratify universities into two states sampled. The most acceptable way of determining sample is 10:1 (10 samples for one item. According to Roscoe (1975) proposed a rule of thumb that in case of quantitative and Multiple Regression Analysis is good enough to sample size criteria as (number of items *10). In our case, total number item is 19*10 =190. In order to get a more reliable result, 200 respondents are considered in this study.

Sampling Strategy

The sampling process can be either probability or non-probability. In this case, 'convenience sampling' technique is used, which is a form of non-probability sampling and considers accessibility and proximity of the respondents.

Instrument for Data collection

The instrument was used for data collection was questionnaire, the student's questionnaire was structured Strongly Agree (AA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD).

Layout of Questionnaire

Section	Variable	No. of items	Scale	Source
1	Supervisor	5	Likert Scale	Mahmood 2011
2	Research Course	5	Likert Scale	Mahmood 2011
3	Research facilities	5	Likert Scale	Mahmood 2011
4	Research student motivation	4	Likert Scale	Benson et al. 2016

Research Variables

S. No	Hypothesis	Variables		Technique
		Independent	Dependent	
1	H1	Research supervisor	PGM*	Reliability analysis Multiple regression analysis
2	H2	Course work	PGM*	Reliability analysis, Multiple regression analysis
3	H3	Research facilities	PGM*	Reliability analysis, Multiple regression analysis

*PM= Post-graduate motivation

Research Model

$$PGM = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 RS + \beta_2 RC + \beta_3 RF + \text{eit}$$

Whereas Post-graduate Motivation (PGM), Research Supervisor (RS), Research Course (RC), Research facilities (RF)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Reliability Analysis

The reliability analysis is used to apply in order to measure or check the reliability of data and based on that data we can say the final conclusions can be reliable or not.

Table 1 Reliability Analysis

Cronbach's Alpha	No of Items	Remarks
.604	19	Excellent

Source: Author' Estimations

You can see in above table 1 the Reliability Statistics, the value of Cronbach's Alpha is used for final decisions about reliability of studied data. On that basis we can level of reliability in terms of poor or good, in our case **Cronbach's Alpha value is 0.604 or 60.4% is good**, for the total number of items in the studied data set is 19. The final conclusion for reliability can be drawn as data is reliable.

Regression Analysis

It is type of analysis in that we predict dependent variable with help of independent variable, in our research model more than one independent variable studied. When we have one dependent variable and more than one independent variable for analysis in that situation multiple regression analysis is to be considered valid for better results of analysis.

Table 2 Model Summary

Variables	R
Research supervisor	.607 ^a
Course work	
Research facilities	

Source: Author' Estimations

In the table # 2 Model Summaries, The R-value helps to understand association between dependent variable and independent variable. In our case, the value of R-square is **0.607 or 60.7%** that shows that we can predict independent variable in the variance in dependent variable.

Table 3 ANOVA

Model	Sig.
Regression	.018 ^a

Source: Author' Estimations

Table # 03 indicates fitness of model, in our case the value of p is 0.018 which is less than 0.05. This p-value concludes our studied



research model is fit and we can predict the results of dependent variables with respect to independent variables.

Table 4. Coefficient

Model	Standardized Coefficients Beta	P value
(Constant)		.000
RS	.576	.008
CW	.501	.033
RF	.605	.004

Significance level at 05% or 0.05

Dependent variable: Post-graduate motivation

Source: Author Estimations

Finally, **table 4** shows the regression constant and their significance and coefficient values. We can test our hypothesis; we can see that the p-value for regression coefficient of research Supervisor, research course and research facilities are given by .008, .033 & 0.004 respectively. We can see in this study all studied variables research supervisor (RS), Course work (CW) and Research facilities (RF) is found to have positive and significant relationship with dependent variable post-graduate motivation (PGM).

Conclusion

The purpose of this study to find out the factors affecting on motivation of post-graduate research students which may causes the poor quality of research. We have considered 4 four universities including both public and private in Sindh, Pakistan, for better results we divided to universities among stratum of 3 samples in the form of disciplines such as Engineering, Agriculture and Management science and 200 respondents are studied from both programs M-Phil/MS & PhD.

We have taken post-graduate research students motivation as a dependent variable on that perception their motivation impact on the overall quality of post-graduate research, while supervisors, research course and research facilities are taken as independent variables. Results research supervisor (RS), Course work (CW) and Research facilities (RF) is found to have positive and significant relationship with dependent variable post-graduate motivation (PGM) in all studied disciplines such as Engineering, Agriculture and Management science

On the revealed results the policy makers HEC and concern research authorities in respective universities should design polices for both first, necessary training to supervisors according to modern requirement for supervision and redesign of research courses by focusing the available resources into university.

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