



Vol. 3 No. 3 (March) (2025)

## **A Study to Analyze the Factors Affecting the Higher Education at Post Graduate Level in City Faisalabad**

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### **Abstract**

Higher education plays an important role in the socio economic development of the country. The development of a country depends mainly on the standard of higher education. Development and prosperity of the country in this advanced world of technology depend upon the quality of higher education. The quality of the education is necessary to be maintained but there are many factors that influence the higher education which lead towards poor quality. There is need to improve the standards of higher education to compete the challenges of literacy, improve the society as socially and economically, maintain the standards of higher education with international standards .The current study was conducted to explore the issues and challenges faced by students at higher level. A comprehensive questionnaire was designed to collect information from the respondents. The population of the study was comprised of all M. Phil education students of University of Agriculture Faisalabad that was 255 in number. The sample size was determined by using online available software [www.surveysystem.com](http://www.surveysystem.com) with 95% confidence interval. The sample was selected conveniently that was 154. The data was analyzed through statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). For the purpose to derive conclusion and suggestions the statistical techniques like standard deviation, mean, weighted score, rank order were used to describe the data. Major findings of the research showed that different factors affected the higher education and factors for this research was calculated with the mean score and weighted score that are accepted and calculated with likert scale that was 3. Majority show their views that less income effecting the motivation and aims of students with the mean score 3.39 with 1.37 standard deviation. It is suggested that government should set high income reward for the higher education students in their professional fields.

**Keywords:** Higher Education, Socio-Economic Development, Quality of Education, Factors Influencing Education, Educational Improvement



## Introduction

Education is the fundamental need of every human being. An educational system improves the social and economic development of the country. Only education makes the people responsible and accurate in their routines and duties. Education is making people conscious regarding their national and international standards as a global citizen. As a community member people are becoming more motivated. Education is not meant for luxurious life, it serves as one of the basic need of life in modern world. Education is the broad way to promote the economic development which creates the sense of social and moral development in human being (Best, 1994).

Higher education plays a significant role in achieving the national goals of our country. It is attached with the performance of the Higher education students, teachers and relative staff and government. Higher education can achieve its purpose through good performance of students. And student's performance can be improved by removing the factors that are affecting their education. By removing these hurdles we can match with international standards and also improve our society. Higher education enables people to enjoy an addition in life providing both social and economic assistances in society (Yasmeen, 2005).

Higher education reliefs in the accepting of social norms, independency of individual and removes discrimination applying on class difference and gender based difference. Previous research work shows that different kinds of financial, social, personal, institutional, supervisor related, academic, and other factors are connected to the academic achievements of the students (Kramarae, 2000).

Social and economic unequal distribution is a reason of varietal status in society. There is class difference; regional difference and also availability of facilities in urban and rural areas are changed. These economic issues affect the lives of tribal areas religiously as well as socially. From the early ages, there is gender discrimination in higher education system of Pakistan. Because of the social norms in Pakistan, girls lag behind in higher education than boys (Tembon and Fort, 2008).

In Pakistani conditions students feel some problems in adaptability in universities as compare to the international universities. One of the major challenging adjustments is to learn in mixed culture. Most of the learners have their previous education in their separate schools and colleges. Social relation with their fellows in opposite gender causes a big challenge in their adaptation (Javed, 2016).

Dropout is one of the major issues affecting higher education. In the early marriages, to handle the dowry demands, parents pressurize the males of their family for income and put them to early earnings. Pick and drop of girls is one of the major issues of girls. Even girls are not allowed to stay in hostels. That is also a major factor of dropout of girls from higher education (Maqsood *et al.*, 2012).

Distance learning is a global strategy to provide universal access to education. Despite the fact, distance education has its issues. Open and Distance Learning (ODL) students are facing these challenges. Sometime situational, attitudinal, psychological and educational challenges were being confronted in distance education. On the other hand, social-cultural institutional relevant challenges and instructional challenges are also being faced by the distance learners various challenges faced by the students of distance learning situational institutional and



## Vol. 3 No. 3 (March) (2025)

positional as three major challenges have been categorized (Kamau, 2007).

In the postgraduate studies, the supervisor-students relationship is very important for the completion of studies. The advisory skills of supervisors have outstanding effect on higher education students' abilities. Teaching methods by the teacher is linked to impact knowledge to learners. Substantial research shows that the quality of teaching methods is often reflected by the achievements of learners. The method of supervision that concentrates more on the person and guidance are observed more supportive to the student but there is no one supervisory style that is effective for all students. Though thesis production is an essential component of supervision, the professional progress of the student is also important (Zirnkle, 2001).

Post Graduate students find many difficulties during the thesis work. The problems are mainly related with the student's clear understanding of the research work and the different steps of it. So it is clear that leading Research and writing thesis are quite challenging for the postgraduate students and their supervisors. But the number of quality research works and thesis writing by postgraduate students for their degree are not too many in our country and same picture is happening in many other countries (Manchishiet *al.*, 2015).

For second language English learners, itself writing skill is a difficult process. The main cause of writing this project is to highlight the issues faced by the postgraduate students in writing the thesis in English. The main reason for the practical project is to explore the common academic difficulties facing by postgraduate students in the early stages of writing research projects in English language. Students found many difficulties in English when they write research. Fluency, proficiency, and basic knowledge of English help students write a good research proposal. So this research is held to point out the basic issues faced by the learners in writing the research proposals at postgraduate level and also to highlight the reasons behind this phenomenon (Ahmed and Mahboob, 2016).

Faculty members of any department in Pakistan are very small. Teachers are very less for the required level. Administration makes schedules of repetition of teachers for evening classes that make their efficiency very down. In last two decades the problem was that teachers of required subject were not available and other subject teachers were adjusted. These issues make the students conceptual grip problem. After a long struggle that issue was griped. One more issue of faculty members was a salary issue. Salaries of the teachers were not according to the rising inflation. The Higher Education Commission is making effective efforts to improve the standards of education in Pakistan. (Albach, 2005).

Unemployment is the large factor that is reducing the educational system at post graduate level. Students use to prefer jobs because of lack of jobs in Pakistan. Our educational system is not giving chance to the new generation. Students who are competent and have good grades are mostly seen in unusual jobs. This picture demotivates the new learners and they drop their degrees and prefer to get jobs on low scale. Lack of universities in Pakistan makes this issue on height and students become hopeless (Mohanthy, 2000).

Each government has its own policy on budget and finance of the country. The annual budget of higher education is very less and confused. It is difficult to understand the division of the budget and acknowledge of budget. The priority of budget on educational system can make the higher education on international standards. Budgets and foreign aids can play the important role in achieving the



## Vol. 3 No. 3 (March) (2025)

aims of universities (Taylor and Tashakkori, 1997).

Less number of public universities is also a factor in distortion of higher education. Many students are moving from small cities to larger ones to pursue their education. This situation causes the load on teachers and other administration staff. Movement of students causes the crowd in classes as well as in hostels. Many of the students have less chance of admission in universities. Government should take serious steps to construct new universities in small cities that can reduce the load and give more chances of jobs to students (Adeeb, 2000).

Motivation for studies is a personal factor of every student. Student achievement and their motivation is the major factor to choosing the future studies. Two type of motivation is being caused in students for further education that is intrinsic motivation and second is extrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation is observed as long term motivation because it is not affected by outside factors. It is a long term motivation and students who are intrinsically motivated must obtain their goal (Wentzel and Wig-field, 2009).

Students can also be motivated by extrinsically. This kind of motivation can be used by outsiders to motivate the learners to get future studies. Such kind of motivation is any reward, drawback of punishment, social pressure etc. This kind of motivation will be used according to the need of the learner. Extrinsic motivation is also highly influence the students. Students of higher education mostly effected with extrinsic motivation like demand of high grades, getting importance from teachers (Castiglia, 2010).

Supervision of teaching and learning is essential for the better performance of students at higher levels. If it lacks, the mentoring process may not work effectively. Teachers and supervisors become reluctant performing their duties. Students cannot get proper attention and guidance. Supervision of any department and section can improve its quality and efficiency. Similarly the supervision of teaching is also necessary (Kaleem and Rahmatullah, 2004).

Gender discrimination is another drawback of decreasing the ratio of higher education. In the developing community like Pakistan males get preference to use the resources. Females are normally assumed to be the housewives to take care of children and support the males in practical life. Usually females are not encouraged enough to reach to higher education level. Financial limitations also play a role in keeping females behind than boys. Distant institution discourages parents to send their girls for education due to security risks and other social threats. Less number of institutions being overcrowded suffers from poor quality of education. There are no separate and nearby institutes for girls due to which most of the girls cannot get the opportunity of getting higher education (Shah, 2003).

Universities in developing countries are very far away from research culture. Research culture is very important for the economic development as well as transform of society in knowledge based. Some other countries like Malaysia and Philippines are spending funds on research such as Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) of Malaysia and Cyber service Corridor (PCC) of Philippines. There is need to facilitate the universities for advanced research in this modern era (Symaco, 2012).

Parents education and their income level are the key elements of children formation that have been connected with adolescent pupils' educational success,





## Vol. 3 No. 3 (March) (2025)

verbal communication progress, and cognitive skill” beside with this, hard work has been completed to explain the role of parents in children’s learning. Parents help the children to improve their abilities. Pupils gain much knowledge if parents used the strategy to maintain their studies. With the strategy students improve their learning abilities, their working capacity and confidence level (Hindin and Paratore, 2007).

### Review of Literature

**Holmberg(1989):** Mentioned that lack of time management skills on the part of the learner also lead to problems like balancing demands of homework, social commitments and study. Other challenges like getting the study materials on time, engagements at social/economic levels and weak learning support have also been reported. Time management skills are important for the learners to compete in the fast growing world.

**Quddus (1990):** Pointed out the professional competencies of the teacher and apply the high quality instructions to the student are very effective for rising the professional development. Higher education is spending the financial assistance to the teachers for the betterment of the higher education. Teachers focus on the professional development if the learner has key importance in the academic process.

**Perraton (1991):** Suggested that distance education is a type of adult education with wide access having an instructional design including teaching methods both interactive and self-help materials. It is an organized activity where teaching mostly occurs at distance between learners and instructors. Distance education mode happens with the teachers and students separated in terms of space and time.

**Giroux (1992):** Explained that some factors like critical knowledge and social activities make teachers and students a valuable asset of the society. It provides ground for teachers and students to reshape their role as an educated asset of the public. Higher education involves some other issues of social status, gender discrimination and provide equal opportunity environment. The world economies are truly knowledge based providing millions of jobs which have been emerged overnight.

**Abdullah (1992):** Found that the monetary rewards for the teachers are very low. There is ever increasing cost of living commodities in Pakistan which is much difficult to bear with low salaries. The higher education commission is striving best to provide facilities to his teachers and hiring foreign faculty for improving the standard of education in Pakistan. It is difficult to work properly when there is the situation of financial stress.

**Mughal and Manzoor (1999):** Stated that students should demonstrate integration in their emotions. Education not only equips students with knowledge but should construct the whole personality. It should improve the feelings of nationalism, sacrifice and patience ultimately for the interest of the country. Students should be trained well to create the sense of justice in them that is necessary for national integrity which is a strategic tool for the development of the country striving to cope this advanced and developed world.

**Low (2002):** Stated that higher educational institutes play integral role in the development of socio economic development of the country. Among such institutes, universities are producing skilled professionals and talented human



## Vol. 3 No. 3 (March) (2025)

resources. Universities are producing graduates which may shape the society by using their potentials and the skills acquired during their higher education in the universities. If they fail to perform their role the society destroys them otherwise.

**Rosenstreich and Dobsone (2014):** Described that people of Southern Asians are not weak in quality but they are weak in their talent in comparison to the other countries of the world. This situation is caused by the blind imitation of other countries, use their methods without adjustment, apply their methods and make ourselves problematic. The results of those situations confused them and they forget their own methods learning.

**Burki (2005):** Discussed that adult literacy rate of Pakistan is very less in other Asian countries like India and Sri Lanka. Pakistan literacy rate of above 15 years is 43.5 percent in comparison with Indian literacy rate is 61.3 and Sri Lanka has 92.1 percent. Pakistan needs more effort to increase the literacy rate by improving the standards of higher education. Access to higher education is important to produce the more professionals and well developed society.

**Ahmad khan (2007):** Recommended the gender issues in research and point out that men have authoritative role in society due to which females have to face many troubles based on gender. They also highlight the issue that cultural norms are also a barrier in getting higher education in girls. Pakistan is developing country and their families put behind the girls in higher education and give priority to boys for supporting family income.

**Ali and Tahir (2009):** Observed the frequent change in world environment make the Southern Asian countries pressurized and uneasy. Public sector of universities becomes more miserable. Standards of the students become very high by seeing the standards of other countries. Students start to get migration for higher education. This movement decreases the standards of our own country. People of high caliber and toppers do not like to be settled in their countries.

**Siddiqi (2012):** Discussed that the university students of the underdeveloped and developing countries have to face more challenges than the students of the developed countries. The universities in Pakistan are attributed with multiple factors contributing to the intensity of problems relevant to teachers, administration, budget, infrastructure and shortage of resources. He emphasized on these discrepancies in educational system causing many problems to the students in their academic process.

**Kemer (2014):** Explained that students face a lot of changes and problems during adolescence. Most of these problems are related to their career. So when students know the importance of career then they need counseling so respond them effectively so that they can solve their own problems. As a large number of students are facing career demands so the availability of counselors is also a big challenge so alternative methods like computer assisted career guidance can be used, in the hope that many students will receive guidance.

**Castro et al., (2015):** Emphasized that many parents may not be able to fully participate in their child's education due to their low education or difficult to understand new curriculum. So, many parents ignore to participate in their child's education they think that this is the responsibility of class teacher or school. Many parents claim to be so busy in his daily routine. They have no spare time to engage their children in reading activities at home. Due to lack of resources such as money and time many parents cannot provide peaceful



## Vol. 3 No. 3 (March) (2025)

environment for reading, cannot provide different reading books of both (English and Urdu) and cannot support to child read different words with his own efforts.

**Herrell (2011):** Highlighted the communication barriers of the students at post graduate level. Communication barrier is occur when student is standing in front of teacher, in presentation, group fellows, peer study, class participation etc. A lot of reasons behind communication barriers, some of them are students' living standard, their source of income, their number in siblings, social pressures, previous study results, lack of confidence, hesitation, fear of insult are many reasons that create the communication barriers. There is a big way to remove that barriers are teacher's attention.

### **Materials and Methods**

#### **Population**

This study aims to analyze the factors affecting higher education and their impact on postgraduate students' performance at the University of Agriculture in Faisalabad. The target population comprised 255 M.Phil education students from the Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Research and Development (IAEERD), Faculty of Social Sciences.

#### **Sample**

This study focused on postgraduate M.Phil education students at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad. A sample of 154 respondents was selected using the online software [www.surveysystem.com](http://www.surveysystem.com), with a 95% confidence interval. Respondents were chosen through a convenient sampling technique.

#### **Development of Instruments**

In the present study, a questionnaire was utilized as the research instrument to gather responses related to higher education.

#### **Data Collection**

The questionnaire was distributed to M.Phil students at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad. Respondents were asked to complete the questionnaire and return it online. It was prepared in clear and easy-to-understand English. In this study, pre-testing was conducted with 15 respondents from the target population prior to the actual research.

#### **Statistical Analysis**

Data analysis was conducted using SPSS software. Various statistical techniques, including mean, rank order, weighted score, and standard deviation, were employed to interpret the data. The rank order was calculated based on the weighted scores to determine the relative ranking of the variables, as mean values were not utilized for this purpose.

### **Results and Discussions**

#### **Burden & Emotional Distortions**

Students feel as a result of some impacts that effect on their personality in which they agree with the burden at 1<sup>st</sup> rank order that's mean score is 3.727 which are accepted and standard deviation is 1.0496. The weighted score of this response was 580 which are highest. Students are highly disturbed emotionally and



## Vol. 3 No. 3 (March) (2025)

mentally by affecting the factors with the mean score 3.110 that is acceptable and weighted score of 483.

### **Depression & Less Attention**

Students feel depression with the effects of factors with the mean score is 3.623 and standard deviation is 1.2787 and weighted score 564 and 2<sup>nd</sup> rank order. Deficiency in attention cause the decline of student's performance with the mean score 3.506 and standard deviation is 1.1561 and weighted score 544 with 3<sup>rd</sup> rank order.

### **Low Grades & Use of Shortcut Method**

Students with low grades has effect the higher education which is accepted with the mean score 3.416 and standard deviation is 1.1067. The weighted score 531. Students adopt shortcut methods for completing their degrees that was calculated with the mean score 3.409 and standard deviation 1.1468 and the weighted score are 525.

### **Inferiority Complex & Less interest in Further Education**

Inferiority complex was observed in students that agree with mean score 3.377 that is accepted and weighted score 524 that shows students effect at high contingency. Students response agrees with the less interest in further education by effecting the different factors with the mean score 3.331 that is accepted and weighted score 516.

### **Spoiling Potential & Uncertainty**

Students spoil their potential power and lack of efforts with the mean score 3.305 that shows the acceptance of the statement. The weighted score 509. The factors that affecting on students personality create the uncertainty in them which make them fearing in life with the mean score 3.299 that is accepted and standard deviation 1.2687 with the weighted score 508.

### **Weak Social Link & Ready to Quit**

Students start to avoid social links of society. They avoid gathering and like lonely which was calculated with 3.234 mean score, standard deviation is 1.2823 and weighted score is 502. Students use shortcut method or sometime they aggressive so much that they ready to quit the degree for their mental satisfaction. Students agree with the mean score 3.162 that is acceptable with the standard deviation of 1.2497 and weighted score is 492.

### **Defective Research**

Effect of factors on student's personality is that they perform defective research and do not understand with the research tools properly that mean score 3.149 that is acceptable and standard deviation is 1.2088 and weighted score is 490.

### **Seeking Sympathies & Uncreative**

Students seek sympathies from others and feel themselves needy and depressed with the mean score of 3.136 and weighted score is 488. Students become uncreative and stubborn in their mind and they lose their passion with the mean score 3.117 and weighted score of 484.





Vol. 3 No. 3 (March) (2025)

## Conclusion

In order to create an informed and forward-thinking society, higher education is essential. The purpose of this study was to determine the variables that influence postgraduate students' performance at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad. Students who are pursuing M.Phil were given a questionnaire to complete in order to gather data. The results showed that institutional, social, and political issues greatly affect students' performance. Uncertainty in employment and financial difficulties impede motivation, while weak educational practices and nepotism exacerbate the effects on quality. The dynamics of the family, such as young marriages and parents without formal education, can also be obstacles to going to college. Additionally, expensive tuition rates and un-engaging teaching approaches lead to falling educational levels. Many students struggle with issues like low self-esteem and inadequate English, which causes some of them to give up on their education. This paper identifies important problems in higher education and offers some possible fixes.

## Recommendations

- To boost motivation, the government ought to raise the financial awards given to postgraduate students.
- Offer chances for accessible and reasonably priced higher education, especially in rural locations.
- To lower the dropout rate among female students, improve the transportation infrastructure.
- Increase the budget for initiatives that are based on research to improve the culture of research.
- In order to lessen the overcrowding in major institutions, more universities should be built in smaller cities.
- Enhance faculty development and training to raise the caliber of instruction.
- Increased surroundings that are encouraging for female students can help combat gender prejudice.
- Improve student programs on time management and organizational abilities.
- Boost cooperation between academic institutions and business sectors to enhance job prospects.
- To assist students in successfully planning and managing their future professions, offer career counseling services.
- Improve your English language skills to write academic papers and theses more effectively.
- Ascertain that budgets for education are distributed fairly in order to comply with global norms.

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## Vol. 3 No. 3 (March) (2025)

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## Vol. 3 No. 3 (March) (2025)

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