



# Sociology of Education

## Identifying and Evaluating the Dimensions of the Research System in Higher Education

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### Research Paper

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### Abstract

**Purpose:** The current research was conducted with the aim of identifying and evaluating the dimensions of the research system in higher education.

**Methodology:** In terms of the purpose, this research is fundamental-applied and also, in terms of the type of data, it is mixed (qualitative-quantitative) of the exploratory type, which was thematic analysis in the qualitative part and descriptive-survey in the quantitative part. The population studied in the qualitative section included academic (faculty members) and organizational (responsible for Islamic Azad Universities) experts, and in the quantitative section it included all academic faculty members of Islamic Azad Universities. The sample size in the qualitative section was 19 interviewees according to the principle of saturation and the purposeful sampling method, and in the quantitative section, 272 people were selected based on the calculation of the sample size in structural equations and the stepwise cluster random sampling method. To collect information, two documentary (library) and field methods were used: semi-structured interviews and a researcher-made questionnaire. Also, the answer was taken from a closed questionnaire from the model presented in the qualitative section, which was designed to measure the opinion of experts regarding the validity of the model (external validity). The method of data analysis in the qualitative part of theoretical coding was derived from thematic analysis method with Maxqda software. In the quantitative part, also, in the inferential part to answer the research questions from tests such as Pearson correlation, sample t-test, hierarchical analysis process and confirmatory factor analysis using SPSS-v23, Smart PLS-v3 software. and Lisrel V8.8 and Expertchoice-V11 were used.

**Findings:** The data collection tools were semi-structured interviews in the qualitative part and researcher-made questionnaires in the quantitative part. The validity and reliability of the instruments were examined and confirmed. The method of data analysis in the qualitative part was theoretical coding (open, central and selective) and in the quantitative part included descriptive and inferential statistics (Pearson correlation, sample t-test and structural equation modeling and confirmatory factor analysis).

**Conclusion:** The findings of the qualitative section showed that the research system includes the dimensions of individual factors, infrastructural factors, and policy making. Also, the results showed that the components in the existing condition have a favorable condition.



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## Detailed abstract

**Purpose:** The higher education system as a purposeful phenomenon has two quantitative and qualitative dimensions, and its balanced growth should be considered in both quantitative and qualitative dimensions in parallel with each other. Academic staff members are among the important and main factors of the country's higher education structure, and their quantitative and qualitative decline has a direct impact on the performance of the higher education system. Since the position and role of higher education is decisive in the economic, social and cultural development of the country, and the specialized human resources needed by different departments are trained by the department of higher education, the strengthening and development of this department and especially the academic staff members as the spirit and Higher education is the foundation of the development of other sectors. The importance of higher education in Iran is so much that it has been discussed a lot in the constitution of higher education and the necessity of its optimization has been examined in various solutions. In this constitution, it is stated that the main goals of the country's education system should be to train a person who is faithful and inculcated in Islamic ethics, questioning and thoughtful, creative and entrepreneurial, healthy and cheerful, selective and free-spirited, law-oriented and orderly, and justice-seeking. Peace-loving, patriotic, independence-seeking and anti-tyranny, collectivist and world-minded, self-confident and thrifty, hopeful and waiting, knowledgeable and capable, brave and selfless, chaste and brave, responsible and conscientious (basic skills in the six fields of education) ) and be ready to enter various types of specialized and vocational training for a decent personal, family and social life based on the Islamic standard system. Also, among the other goals of this system is to promote the role of the formal and public education system in the growth and advancement of the country, to raise the public culture and to lay the groundwork for the development of Islamic-Iranian civilization with an emphasis on deepening religious and political knowledge and insight, commitment to moral values, loyalty to In the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is believed in the principle of jurisprudence and religious democracy, strengthening national unity, strengthening the scientific spirit, respecting social rights and responsibilities, improving the manners and skills of life, health and environment. As an educational center, the university needs specialized, trained and compassionate forces to achieve the goals of the university .The current research was conducted with the aim of identifying and evaluating the dimensions of the research system in higher education.

**Methodology:** Considering that the aim of the current research was to identify and evaluate the dimensions of the research system in higher education, the research method according to the purpose, fundamental-applied according to the type of data, mixed (qualitative-quantitative) of the exploratory type according to the time of data collection, cross-sectional and according to the method of data collection or the nature and method of the research, in the qualitative part, it was thematic analysis and in the quantitative part, it was descriptive-survey. The statistical population of this research includes scientific documents and documents, including specialized books, conducted research, theses, articles taken from domestic and foreign databases in the field of research and evaluation system in higher education, university professors in 1400-1401 And the officials with experience in the Islamic Azad Universities were in the qualitative section and all the faculty members of the Islamic Azad Universities of Tehran were in the quantitative section. In this research, a non-random sampling method of a targeted type was used to select the interviewees and based on the criteria for entering the research (which was mentioned in the study population section). Therefore, the sample size of the present study, taking into account the number of parameters estimated in the model, was 282 faculty members in the Islamic Azad Universities of Tehran, and the questionnaire was distributed among these people, and 10 questionnaires were discarded due to incompleteness, and statistical operations were carried out on There were 272 subjects. The sampling method used in this research was cluster random sampling method due to the geographical dispersion of universities and

university faculties in Islamic Azad University of Tehran. To collect information, two documentary (library) and field methods were used: semi-structured interviews and a researcher-made questionnaire. Also, the answer was taken from a closed questionnaire from the model presented in the qualitative section, which was designed to measure the opinion of experts regarding the validity of the model (external validity). In order to determine the validity of the questionnaire, face, content and construct validity were used, which were confirmed. Cronbach's alpha coefficient and composite reliability were also used to determine reliability. The method of data analysis in the qualitative part of theoretical coding was derived from thematic analysis method with Maxqda software. In the quantitative part, also, in the inferential part to answer the research questions from tests such as Pearson correlation, sample t-test, hierarchical analysis process and confirmatory factor analysis using SPSS-v23, Smart PLS-v3 software. and Lisrel V8.8 and Expertchoice-V11 were used.

**Findings:** The data collection tools were semi-structured interviews in the qualitative part and researcher-made questionnaires in the quantitative part. The validity and reliability of the instruments were examined and confirmed. The method of data analysis in the qualitative part was theoretical coding (open, central and selective) and in the quantitative part included descriptive and inferential statistics (Pearson correlation, sample t-test and structural equation modeling and confirmatory factor analysis).

**Conclusion:** The findings of the qualitative section showed that the research system includes the dimensions of individual factors, infrastructural factors, and policy making. Also, the results showed that the components in the existing condition have a favorable condition. Based on the findings of the research, suggestions can be made: paying attention to students in order to monitor their research potential and inviting them to participate in research, paying attention to university managers in order to build more capacity for research in the university and help the industry, defining Research-oriented behavior for university staff in order to break the resistance to conducting research and remove research obstacles in the university, encouraging professors to believe in research during brainstorming sessions in higher education in order to achieve what the university and industry need. Protecting research in order to encourage professors to define research projects for students and use student potentials in conducting academic research, forming a system of innovation and innovation in the university in order to use the tacit knowledge of professors in the field of required research.