



Sociology of Education

Identifying and Leveling of Effective Factors on the Social Role of the University System based on Interpretive Structural Equations

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Research Paper

Abstract

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Purpose: Examining the effective factors on the social role of the higher education system can help to improve it. As a result, the aim of this research was identifying and leveling the effective factors on the social role of the university system based on interpretive structural equations.

Methodology: This study was in terms of purpose applied and in terms of implementation method was cross-sectional. The research population in the qualitative section was documents and texts related to research and experts in this field. The numbers of 50 documents and texts were selected by purposive sampling method and numbers of 10 experts were selected as samples by purposive sampling method. The data were collected by taking notes from documents and texts and a survey from experts about the researcher-made questionnaire and were analyzed by the interpretive structural equation method in PLS software.

Findings: The findings showed that the effective factors on the social role of the higher education system were included 11 factors of challenging the university curriculum, promoting forms of social participation, preparing students for public jobs, active citizenship curriculum, teaching and learning social responsibility, research-oriented, social projects, cultivating competent people, eligible citizens development, attention to the views of social stakeholders in the university system and social sensitivity education. The results of interpretive structural equations showed that the factor of promoting forms of social participation was on the first level, the factors of research-oriented and cultivating competent people was on the second level, the factor of teaching and learning social responsibility was on the third level, the factors of challenging the university curriculum and preparing students for public jobs was on the fourth level, the factors of active citizenship curriculum, attention to the views of social stakeholders in the university system and social sensitivity education was on the fifth level, the factor eligible citizens development was on the sixth level and the factor of social projects was on the seventh level, and based on the interpretive structural model of the effective factors on the social role of the university system was designed.

Conclusion: According to the results of the present study, higher education planners and specialists can use the results of this study and use the identified effective factors on the social role of the university system to improve the state of the university and gain a competitive advantage.



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Extended Abstract

Purpose: Universities act as foundational institutions and can be the basis for learning how to generate capital. Therefore, entering the university creates a new stage in people's social life, which will effect on their attitudes, capabilities and skills in the creation and management of human and organizational groups in the future. In modern society, the reality and idea of the university has a central and vital position and authority in the cultural and social prosperity of any nation. The educational systems of each country have various goals and missions according to their social conditions, culture and values, and by preparing facilities and allocating resources try to realize them that among the effective factors in it, we can mention teachers, learners, competent managers, facilities and equipment, curriculum and social environment. University is the meeting point of three realms of knowledge, power and culture. Because it deepens scientific and cultural attitudes, deepens dialogue-oriented culture and collective function, promotes diversity and cultural richness and national development. The development of any society is the result of the state of development of the institution of science and higher education of that country. Socialization means adaptation and familiarization with society and refers to a process which in it people acquire characteristics that are worthy of membership in society. The accountability and responsibility of universities towards the society in its various dimensions and fields is responsible for defining and strengthening the social role of the university system in the local, national and international society. Therefore, socialization of universities has become more evident among discussions, statements and conferences, whose purpose is that science should serve progress, peace and local, national and international development. Today, there is a need to align the university system with the expectations of the society, of course within the framework of meeting ethical standards, political neutrality, critical capabilities, explaining the issues of society and the world of work, establishing long-term orientations based on social needs and goals, respecting cultures and environmental support. Knowledge derived from the curriculum in the university system to improve democracy and civic life by addressing the common problems of citizens is a requirement of the curriculum of the university system, and this system should prepare citizens through direct efforts to improve democratic and civic performance at the national and international levels. Universities play an important role in advancing the educational, cultural, political, economic and social affairs of the country, and universities are one of the most complex and evolving systems that have a special and privileged position in the comprehensive development of society, especially in the social sector. Another important point is that few researches have been done about the social role of the university system, and no research has investigated the effective factors on the its social role, and it is hoped that this research can identify the effective factors on the social role of the university system to the experts, officials and planners of higher education system helps to improve the social role of the university system through the identified factors. Therefore, examining the effective factors on the social role of the higher education system can help to improve it. As a result, the aim of this research was identifying and leveling the effective factors on the social role of the university system based on interpretive structural equations.

Methodology: This study was in terms of purpose applied and in terms of implementation method was cross-sectional. The research population in the qualitative section was documents and texts related to research and experts in this field. The numbers of 50 documents and texts were selected by purposive sampling method and numbers of 10 experts were selected as samples by purposive sampling method. In the purposive sampling method, the samples are selected according to the criteria that the documents and texts were selected as samples if they were related to the title of the current research, i.e., had material about the social role of the university system. Also, experts were selected as samples if they had a suitable curriculum vitae and related to the title of the current research or performed outstanding executive activities in line with the social role of the university. In order to collect data, in the first stage, using checklists made by researchers and taking notes from documents and texts, agents were collected the effective factors on the social role of the university system. In the second stage, using a researcher-made questionnaire about the effective factors on the social role of the university system, agents were surveyed from experts, and then, using multi-criteria decision-making, the effective factors on the social role of the university system were leveled. Finally, the data after taking notes from documents and texts and a survey from experts about the researcher-made questionnaire and were analyzed by the interpretive structural equation method in PLS software.

Findings: The findings showed that the effective factors on the social role of the higher education system were included 11 factors of challenging the university curriculum, promoting forms of social participation, preparing students for public jobs, active citizenship curriculum, teaching and learning social responsibility, research-oriented, social projects, cultivating competent people, eligible citizens development, attention to the views of social stakeholders in the university system and social sensitivity education. The results of interpretive structural equations showed that the factor of promoting forms of social participation was on the first level, the factors of research-oriented and cultivating competent people was on the second level,

the factor of teaching and learning social responsibility was on the third level, the factors of challenging the university curriculum and preparing students for public jobs was on the fourth level, the factors of active citizenship curriculum, attention to the views of social stakeholders in the university system and social sensitivity education was on the fifth level, the factor eligible citizens development was on the sixth level and the factor of social projects was on the seventh level, and based on the interpretive structural model of the effective factors on the social role of the university system was designed.

Conclusion: According to the results of the present study, higher education planners and specialists can use the results of this study and use the identified effective factors on the social role of the university system to improve the state of the university and gain a competitive advantage. Therefore, educational programs should be in line with the views of the stakeholders of the society and somehow universities should follow good governance policies. Commitment should be evident everywhere in the education curriculum, and students should be committed to the society as a living being and consider themselves the guarantors of improving the quality of life in a healthy society. The last suggestion is that the moral issues of the society should always be placed on the agenda in the university curriculum in order to provide the basis for the progress of the society.