Quantitative Growth and Qualitative Development: An Overview from Pakistan (2002-2009)

Saira Batool, Saif–ur-Rehman Saif Abbasi, Adeela Rehman*

International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan

*Corresponding Author: dradeelarehman@yahoo.com

Abstract

Higher education has two-fold mission. First is to train people for practical and technical work. Second is to foster public engagement. Following this, universities are committed to educating professional for moral and societal responsibility. In 21st century University adopts a general mission of service to the public supported by new research discoveries. Globally, many national universities are now discovering that research based public service and outreach activities can improve society at local and regional levels. The quality of higher education around the world depends on quality of research produced by educational institutions. The recent development in quality of research frameworks developed by different researchers focused on evidence-based research. The current study was intended to explore quantitative growth and qualitative development of randomly selected social sciences disciplines in the recognized public sector universities of Pakistan located in Capital, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtoon Khawa and Balochistan during 2002-2009 regarding research publications by faculty members. From the universe of sixty eight, twenty universities were drawn through proportionate stratified random sampling from entire country, three universities from capital, six from Punjab, four, five and two from Sindh, Khyber Pakhtoon Khawa and Balochistan, respectively. From these selected universities 97 social sciences departments were randomly chosen for data collection. The current research study was conducted by using quantitative approach of social science research method and the data was collected through survey method. The unit of analysis was individuals (heads of the departments). Uni-variate analysis was implied to provide general description of various variables. The significant increase was seen in quantitative indicators such as departmental growth, degree programs offered, student’s enrollment and passed out and number of faculty members. On the whole, data analysis explores that there is a tendency of improvement in all indicators of higher education in social sciences in Pakistan.

Keywords

Quantitative Growth, Qualitative Development, Social Sciences, Higher Education in Pakistan

1. Introduction & Literature Review

The interaction of global and national forces is constantly diversifying the scenario of Higher education. These rapid changes have raised the issue of quality of knowledge produced by centers of higher learning. Educational Institutions for higher education are facing increased competition due to globalization and they are competing with each other by claiming themselves as quality providers. Therefore, quality has become the salient feature for the success of any educational institution in current contemporary world.

The idea of knowledge is related with institution of higher learning having an objective of excellence in specialized fields mentioned by Encyclopedia Britannica [1]. Societies can take advantage from knowledge by obtaining and relating exiting knowledge. It is not sufficient to transfer knowledge by local and global institutions but the objective is to achieve or develop sustainable knowledge base by absorbing, understanding, interpreting to adapting in its true essence stated by Cohen & Levinthal [2]. Research and teaching has become two important aspects in the universities of the world today to meet the challenges of changing globe. Currently universities are heavily engaged in teaching larger number of students in diversified educational disciplines explained by Umashankar & Dutta [3].

Education is a fundamental requirement for any society in this changing contemporary epoch. A strong educational system of any country has the capacity to develop social, economic, cultural and scientific advancement stated by Mohanty [4]. Therefore, investment in learning leads to investment in human capital which resultanty strengthens physical and social capitals of any country.

Moore & Farris [5] stated that the rationale of Higher education is not to teach certain disciplines of physical and social sciences but it has multidimensional purposes such as social, economic and cultural. At higher level, education can be broadly categorized in to natural and social sciences. Social sciences deal with knowledge in finding out socio-economic and environmental aspects of society. The whole society serve as laboratory for social scientist in contrast to
natural sciences where a particular object is studied under controlled conditions.

The term social science refers to all branches of study that deals with human behaviors. The modern social science is emerged as a scientific discipline during 18th century mentioned by Rosenberg [6]. Social science is mainly linked with research which provides knowledge on societies, interaction among societies and complex human behaviors. Social science research is crucial in policy formulation. It is necessary to build strong institutions in higher education for social sciences that can provide detailed knowledge about exiting socio-economic conditions of the country and devise proper mechanism for evaluation of policies and programs at all levels for realistic planning.

The purpose of higher education in social sciences is to reflect the wider aims and benefits of society as well as individual. Society is made up of different social groups containing individual, therefore, higher education in social sciences should be develop in a manner which caters for individual aspirations and goals as well as shared societal objectives at large.

Higher Education encourages sustainable knowledge base and critical inquiry among individuals and social groups about societal problems and issues through trainings for the development of practical and professional skills necessary to compete in globalize environment as described by the researcher in figure below.

It is believed that social sciences emerged in 19th century's twin revolutions namely French and Industrial revolution. Scientists, philosophers, politicians and other thinkers during these revolutions started warning human beings about the dangers of increasing imbalances in their cultures. The destructions of 20th century have posed challenges. Hence social sciences came up as a necessary subject. Europeans started making colonies in America and other parts of the world. The new education system was introduced in colonies. Pakistan the important colonies of British rules in sub-continent that came under these changes. One of the oldest universities, The University of Punjab, Lahore was developed under colonial rule. Different subjects of physical and social sciences were initiated.

![Diagram of Purposes of Higher Education in Social Sciences](image-url)
2. Social Sciences in Pakistan

The World Bank [7] indicated that Pakistan, a country of 162 million people, had low enrollment at higher education because of low spending and investment on social development due to debt burden. In 1947, Pakistan had two universities with few enrollments at higher levels. Higher education institutions and the student's enrollment are increased in number between 1999-2000 and 2006-07.

Table 1 shows that total enrollment in higher education stood at 3.21 million in 2006-07 within 120 institutes of public and private sector universities adopted from HEC & MoE [8].

Bashir & Aitken[9] stated that in Pakistan various changes have occurred in the education system specifically in higher education. The beginning of Higher Education Commission shaped new policies and programmes for the development of higher education system. These efforts are seriously concerned to make improvements in the current situation of higher education system.

According to the table 2 the highest number of universities is located in Punjab and Sindh. A large number of public sector universities exist in Punjab and greater number of private universities exists in Sindh. However, Azad Jammu & Kashmir has the lowest number of public and private universities. Nearly 3.8% of students were enrolled in higher education and the government is now firmly devoted to improve the enrollment ratio to 6% by year 2010 by World Bank Report [10].

Although the social sciences are more than two centuries older in most Asian countries, including Pakistan, the term “Social Sciences" is new, and teaching and research in the several disciplines covered by it have been introduced recently. At independence Pakistan inherited one established institution Punjab University at Lahore. Founded in 1882, it provided courses in only three social sciences subjects i.e. Economics, Political science and History (Braibanti, 1966). Gradually Nine public sector universities have been established with 50 social science departments till 1983. The distribution of Economics departments were 18%, History 16%, Political Science 14% and the remaining 52% were Psychology, International Relations, Philosophy, Anthropology and Social Work stated by Ahmed [11].

There was total (15,644) social scientist working in the country by 1983. 30%, 19%, 11% were economists, political scientists, historians and educationists respectively. Mostly were engaged in public organizations and were male mentioned by Karamat [12]. The distribution of qualification of these social scientist was 1% PhD and Mphil each and the remaining were masters stated by Ansari [13]. Development of various disciplines of social sciences in Pakistan is unbalanced. The discipline of Economics is highly development as compared to the underdeveloped discipline of Anthropology. Large number of universities is state funded but there is very few privately financed research and training institutions said by Inayatullah [14].

Traditionally university is considered as an institution of Higher Education which awards degrees itself. The value of degree is attached with the quality of knowledge produced by an institution. A university is built around the concept of knowledge in all areas of life with the objective of learning and excellence in specialized fields.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Universities</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AJK</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baluchistan</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamabad</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Area</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWFP</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sindh</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HEC, 2009
Cobban [15] indicated that the progress of higher education in Medieval to Post-modern period revolves around three main stages with different missions. Research and teaching was emerged during Pre-Nation State Stage, nationalization of universities was came up during Nation State Stage wherein public service objective was the core objective of universities, while internationalization of universities were emerged due to globalization.

Research has critical importance in Social Sciences. The quality of higher education around the world depends on quality of research produced by educational institutions. The recent development in quality of research frameworks developed by different researchers focused on evidence-based research mentioned by Kezar & Eckel [16]. Toth & Montagna [17] stated that the social scientist recognizes realistic scientific research in formulation of social, economic and educational policies and practices. He advocated experimental design research that comprised of quantities approach of research. He focused that research should be objective, precise and practical. He further elaborates that correlation and has an important role in education, mainly in social science research by stating: “Correlation and descriptive research is essential in theory building and in suggesting variables worthy of inclusion in experiments”. The six guiding principles have shown in figure highlights important elements of research research. These guiding doctrines maintain logical investigation stated by Stanley & Porter [18]. The guiding Principles of research are presented by the researcher in the figure 2 given below.

The important element of research that ensures its quality is its scientific nature. The research design must be definite, clear and based on empirical investigation. The conceptual framework of research should be relevant to its social context. Most important of all elements involved in research are critical inquiry and systematic reasoning throughout the research process.

Coll & Eames [19] explained that this expansion and the complication of the global higher education system indicate a clear demand for more structured systems of management in higher education. As managing in universities today involves making educational provision and social organization compatible with the demands of the international economic system (Morley, 2003). The core objective of higher education institution is to satisfy academic requirements and expectations. Hence the outcome of the higher education is the quality personnel to fulfill the needs of national development. Chadwick [20] also stated that the issues of quality are central part of planning process of university management. Owlia & Aspinwall [21] also indicated that higher education is currently operating in that society wherein the role of quality is critical.

Globally universities are confronted the competition to become hubs of quality for teaching and research. Currently universities are heavily occupied in the task of being teaching a large number of students in specialized fields of learning mentioned by Umashankar & Dutta [22]. Quality at institution covers all activities that ensure policy formulation with concrete objectives and realistic planning stated by Welsh & Dey [23]. Some of new research is conducted on the formal structure of academic institutions. The studies show that universities and colleges are the components of recognized educational system in producing knowledge indicated by (QAA [24].

The two components of formal academic structure are the selection of academic departments and the degree programs offered. Both are interdependent to each other (Braxton & Hargens, 1996). The academic structure is presented in figure 3 below in a diagrammatical form by the researcher.

### Table 1. Growths of Public and Private Universities and Colleges in Pakistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Higher education institutions (Universities)</th>
<th>Enrolments ( Universities)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The higher education academic structure is founded on the diversification of degree programs at different levels along with the quality of disciplines in which they are offered. However, the national development and rapid social change are heavily dependent on the quality of education being imparted by the institutions of higher education. The positive social change confirms stability, social solidarity, and academic authority in society.

Stanley & Porter [25] stated that the quality of education depends upon research produced by educational institutions. The recent development in quality of research frameworks developed by different researchers focused on evidence-based research.

Social science is mainly linked with such research which provides knowledge on societies, interaction among societies, and complex human behaviors. It has a crucial importance in policy formulation of any country. It is necessary to build strong institutions in higher education for social sciences that can provide detailed knowledge about existing socio-economic conditions of the country and devise proper mechanisms for evaluation of policies and programs at all levels for realistic planning.

The idea behind higher education in social sciences is to reflect the wider aims and benefits of society as well as individual. Society is made up of different social groups containing individual, therefore higher education in social sciences should be developed in a manner which caters for individual aspirations and goals as well as shared societal objectives at large. Higher Education encourages sustainable knowledge base and critical inquiry among individuals and social groups about societal problems and issues through trainings for the development of practical and professional skills necessary to compete in globalized environment.

The research function of academia remains a prime source of knowledge and innovation at national, regional, and international levels. Current issues facing research linked
with relevance of the subject matter. There is a need to develop subject curricula with it focus on the theoretical base and practical implementation of knowledge and skills by involving all stakeholders of higher education research at all level. National research universities constitute centers of excellence and act as hubs for national research development. The research-based university has the capacity for research training, and can reproduce its own capacity while also supplying qualified analytical competence to other institutions. The diagrammatical presentation given below indicates social science research model that enables researchers to understand inquiring techniques, methods of exploring critical issues scientifically. Different elements involves in research nexus enables teachers and students to multiple quality knowledge by sharing ideas which is shown in figure 4 representing social sciences Research Model.

The amount of work as consultants with government or private clients is still very small. These are all interacting factors. Most faculties have a committee on research coordination, but it does not function well. There is no provision for the recruitment or assignment of staff specifically for research, although a vacation is built into the conditions of service stated by Baloch [26]. This is not to imply that the social scientists lack interest in research simply that teaching pressures in terms of number of courses and credit hours assigned to each faculty member largely exclude it. This may change the establishment of university research centers.

Figure 4. Social Sciences Research Model
Hussain [27] stated that it is practically impossible at present to make the distinction between basic and operational research. Most of the researches conducted at universities are basic in nature, done on the department’s initiative discipline-based rather than interdisciplinary; and descriptive-historical rather than analytical. Although operational research is minimal, the basic research could have operational value if the public agencies concerned cared to make use of it, and if there were adequate institutionalized links between university research and policy-makers. However, the attitude of policy-makers is slowly changing as academics become involved in contract research and participate in government committees.

At present most teachers and students go to the West for studies at PhD level. This is, in one sense, welcome and beneficial, because the graduate is exposed to a different intellectual climate. But in most cases they learn techniques of research and become acquainted with theories which have little bearing on the problems of their own country. The development of research facilities and a research atmosphere at home would help to overcome this problem. The promotion of advanced studies should not stop with Ph. D. programmes in the universities. Opportunities should be extended to the affiliated colleges which employ over two thousand teachers in the social sciences, most of whom have no access to higher training in the subject of their choice. They lack proper library facilities, and the money to pay for such studies. A possible solution would be to provide senior research fellowships, reserved for teachers of affiliated colleges only.

Hafeez [28] stated that unless social science teaching is related to research, its quality cannot be expected to improve. This needs teacher-student ratio has to be kept at a reasonable level. A research infrastructure has to be built up in the colleges and universities, and links established between different social sciences disciplines. Social scientists have major responsibility in the rebuilding and reconstruction of any society in the globe. Development of disciplines has been unbalanced because of institutional slowness, inadequate machinery for promoting and coordinating their development, and the fact that some of the social sciences are inadequately related to user needs. This, however, may be changing as a consequence of a several reasons, which are the expansion of university education and the concomitant pressure of student numbers, the increase of social science personnel, and a greater appreciation on the part of government for social science study at higher level.

Universities and social scientists need better links with research users and policy-makers. The use of university social science research by government agencies has so far been minimal, largely because the necessary institutional machinery is lacking. All the universities have student societies for the social sciences. But they are poorly organized and inadequately geared to the intellectual needs of their members. Some of the societies publish an annual magazine, but often with more articles by staff than by student contributors - more because of poor student response than of staff monopoly of space. One or two societies show more initiative, but their efforts are sporadic and have little influence on the genuine pursuit of knowledge mentioned by Inayatullah [29].

Heavy teaching loads and large classes impede research. There are no arrangements for the release of staff for research, apart from a holiday at the end of every 36 months' service. A semester system instead of the present academic year system might give staff more opportunities for research. But research skills must also be improved, and an atmosphere more conducive to research could be created within the universities by providing more funds, recognizing and rewarding publication, and by fostering greater partnership in community or government-sponsored projects. Apart from supplying graduates the university should be regularly involved in policy, problem-solving, research and planning. Most of the research conducted by government is based on donor agenda; the government should also give local social scientists marginally more honor in the universities.

There are different stages in social science research in Pakistan. Every stage has its own distinctive and distinguishing features. These features are presented in figure 5 developed by the researcher.

Pakistan has a weak social science tradition, thus its universities are producing very little significant research in this field. The state’s Islamic ideology has impacted the research content, perspectives and research methodology. Many social scientists found it difficult to show outstanding ideas in different disciplines of social sciences in Pakistan. Only few had made prominent contribution in relevant theory. But most of them are continuously using western theoretical models on the Pakistani conditions, without scientifically inquiring and reasoning upon the theory itself [25].
There is a need to fill the gap between social sciences and empirical studies. So far, studies undertaken in Pakistan have been based on western hypotheses and methodological framework. Therefore, results are mostly ineffective and incompatible to the local conditions. For conducting applied research social scientists should develop a theoretical framework by implying indigenous knowledge best suited to local needs. Hence, there is a need of suitable environment in which the researchers and stakeholders can interact and develop research programs suited to the needs of the country.

The primary focus of the present research was to study the quantitative growth and qualitative development in social sciences disciplines in selected public sector universities of Pakistan during 2002-2009.

Research Hypothesis

Expansion of social sciences disciplines and the impact on quality of research.

3. Material & Method

Research design

The current research study was conducted by using quantitative approach and survey method was used for data collection. The current study used cross-sectional survey method as it helps researcher in collecting data in a specified instant of time. A questionnaire comprised of close ended and matrix questions which was used as research instrument to collect data from the respondents. The instrument was pre-tested before conducting the real research by using participating pretesting method. In this method researcher approach the selected respondents and conduct interview with them rather than asking the respondents to simply fill out the questionnaire. Respondents were actually involved in an interview setting where respondents are asked to give feedback about the nature of questions, wording and order. The questionnaire was tested by the experts from different universities of Pakistan and finalized in the light of their experienced suggestions and comments. The collected data was analyzed by using suitable statistical technique. Uni-variate analysis was carried out to find out the various emerging trends. While a bi-variate analysis was undertaken using the Chi-square and Gamma to determine an association or relationship between different categorical variables in the selected samples of the data reflects a real association between these variables in the population.

Three different methodologies were used for data collection due to massive work load in order to complete the research study timely. Firstly, questionnaires were dropped
at different social sciences departments along with reference letter for the permission to conduct research duly signed by the head of the department of the researcher’s respective department after taking appointments. After dropping questionnaires researcher’s and research team members conducted many visits to different departments and followed up several times to get duly filled questionnaires back. Secondly, questionnaires were dispatched to focal persons to collect relevant information needed for the present study. The researcher herself followed up the respondents by multiple telephonic conversations for timely availability of information. Focal persons sent back completed questionnaires by mail. Thirdly, researcher also interviewed some of the respondents to get proper information. Most of the respondents were very kind, supportive, showed their keen interests in such type of study and also gave humble suggestions and comments to improve the current research study.

Area of the Study

The study was conducted in the recognized public sector universities of Pakistan located in Capital, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtoon khawa and Balochistan. The area of the research study was very vast and spreads all over Pakistan and it was very difficult and impossible for an individual researcher to collect valid and reliable data. Therefore, researcher hired a research team on payment to collect data from public sector universities. However focal persons (faculty members) from different universities were also requested to help in collecting and validating the data. The members of the research team was properly trained for the clarity and understanding of each aspect of questionnaire in order to eliminate any ambiguity in field work.

Sample Size

Using Proportionate stratified random sampling technique, at first stage of sampling public sector universities were selected from capital and four provinces of Pakistan using the list of HEC recognized universities. Higher Education Commission enlisted seventy public sector universities out of which 14 are located in capital, 21 in Punjab, 6 in Balochistan, 2 in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and 13 each in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtoon khawa. From the universe of sixty eight, twenty universities were selected through proportionate random sampling from entire Pakistan excluding the universities of AJK i.e., three universities from capital, six from Punjab, four, five and two form Sindh, Khyber Pakhtoon Khan and Balochistan respectively. The relative size of the two samples (3 universities from capital and six from Punjab) reflect this proportion. However universities from each stratum were randomly selected. On the second stage of sampling, thirteen social sciences disciplines were randomly selected from Council of Social Sciences list. These disciplines are Agriculture Economics, Anthropology, Communication Studies, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Education, History, International Relation, Pakistan Studies, Psychology, Social Work, Women and Gender Studies. In these selected universities 97 social sciences departments were selected for data collection. In the current research unit of analysis was individuals and information gathered from heads of the departments. All the heads of departments related to selected disciplines were approached for acquiring required information through pre-designed questionnaire.

Field Work

The field experience during data collection was very challenging, tough, costly and time consuming. In social sciences, researcher has to face multiple obstacles mostly related to respondents’ level of co-operation, nature, attitude and level of satisfaction about various inquiries. The entire process of data collection was lasts for 6 months starting from November 2010-April 2011. Three different methodologies were used for data collection due to massive work load in order to complete the research study timely. Firstly, questionnaires were dropped at different social sciences departments along with reference letter for the permission to conduct research duly signed by the head of the department of the researcher’s respective department after taking appointments. Secondly, questionnaires were dispatched to focal persons to collect relevant information needed for the present study. The researcher herself followed up the respondents by multiple telephonic conversations for timely availability of information. Thirdly, researcher also interviewed some of the respondents to get proper information.

4. Results & Discussion

Table 3 shows the number of new department and qualification of faculty members in different department of social sciences, Faculty plays central role in all higher education institutions to improve quality of education and research. There is a global shift towards great diversity of research in various disciplines of knowledge because teaching and research are more approachable to social problems than any other things. It is a process of transforming higher education from educators to learners. The quality of faculty leads to quality of students. Hence qualification of faculty became issue of great concern as they produce knowledge and learners in their respective institutions. Therefore quality of higher qualification of faculty members became the salient feature for the success of any educational institution in this contemporary world.

Total 26 new departments were established during the reported period whereas higher numbers of departments were established during 2004-2006. Higher numbers of new departments were established in the disciplines of Sociology followed by Psychology while there was no new department was established in the disciplines of Agricultural Economics, Anthropology and International Relations. The newly established departments create healthy competitive environment which results in growth of research and new venues of research are opened for researchers.
### Table 3. Number of New Departments and Qualification of Faculty Members (2002-2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disciplines</th>
<th>Number of new Departments</th>
<th>Faculty Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Up to 2003</td>
<td>04-06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Economics</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Communication</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan Studies</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Sciences</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Studies</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is a prominent increase in MA/MSc faculty members in all selected social sciences disciplines during 2002-2009. There is an increase in almost all disciplines except Education and IR while Social Work has no faculty member having MS/MPhil degree. There is a significant increase in PhD local faculty members in all selected social sciences disciplines. However there is a rate of decrease in faculty members having PhD foreign degree in all disciplines expect a reasonable increase is observed in the disciplines of Pakistan Studies, Political Science, Psychology and Gender Studies during the reported period (2002-2009). The discipline of social work in all three selected departments has no faculty member with PhD foreign degree.

Overall the rate of qualification of teachers in the selected departments of different social sciences disciplines shows a moderate increase which reveals a positive trend towards improvement. However some of the disciplines show phenomenal rise in the qualification of teachers as compared to other during 2002-2009.

Research is an interactive process among educators and learners as both questioned, understand, acquired, produced and implemented knowledge in their respective fields. The research function of academia remains a prime source of knowledge and innovation at national, regional and international levels. Quality of research under current study is measured with following indicators i.e. dissertations produced at MS/MPhil and PhD level by students, number of research papers produced and published in HEC recognized journals and the number of conference (national & international) papers presented by faculty members in selected social sciences disciplines during 2002-2009.

Table 4 indicated the number of research publication and dissertations by faculty member and students in social sciences faculty. Throughout the world quality of institutes for higher degrees either in physical or social sciences is mainly dependent on research produced by them. National development of any country depends on the quality of research produce by its educational institutions. Quality of research has two important indicators; first, it is related to the problems of real life, and second it bridges gap b/w research and practices. There is a rate of decrease in MS/MPhil thesis in the departments of seven disciplines during 2007-2009. While disciplines of Mass Communication, Economics, Education, International Relations, Pakistan Studies and Sociology shows the rate of constant increase through the reported period. However the disciplines of Social Work and Gender Studies produced zero theses because none of the selected departments in these disciplines offer degree at MS/MPhil level. There is a trend of reasonable increase in the number of thesis produced at PhD level in all disciplines during 2002-2009 which shows a positive development in social sciences. However higher number of thesis were produced by PhD students during 2007-2009.

There is continuous increase in the number of papers produced and published by faculty members in the disciplines of Mass Communication, Economics, Education, International Relations, Pakistan Studies and Sociology.
Although the overall rate of increase in research papers produced by faculty members in all disciplines were seen during 2007-2009. The disciplines of Mass Communication, Economics, Education, Pakistan Studies and Psychology represent higher number of national conference papers presented by faculty members during 2002-2009. However the disciplines of Education and Psychology shows prominent increase in national conference papers presentations during 2007-2009. The positive and continuous trend of increase of international conference papers presentations was shown by the disciplines Mass Communication, Economics, Education, Pakistan Studies political Science, Psychology and Sociology during 2002-2009. However the selected departments of Social Work presented zero international conference papers during 2002-2009.

The overall highlights of the data about the students enrollment and pass out depicts that almost 40% students obtained degrees in their respective degree programs at different degree levels during 2002-2009. On the whole female enrollment dominated male at all degree programmes. While the percentage of male pass out was 44 and female were 42. total enrollment of male students in Agricultural economics, Anthropology, Mass Communication and Sociology was higher than female at all degree levels on the other hand female students’ enrollment was dominate in psychology at all degree levels during 2002-2009. The eight departments of the discipline of a Pakistan Studies did not offer BS during 2002-2009. Gender studies with five departments did not offer MS/Mphil degree however social work with three departments did not offer MS/Mphil and PhD degree levels. The maximum number of PhD local and foreign faculty was present in the discipline of economics while social work had only tow PhD local and none foreign PhD faculty member during 2002-2009.

The highest number of research papers were produced and published in HEC recognized journals by the faculty members of economics followed by history and psychology during 2002-2009. The highest numbers of National Conference Papers were presented by the faculty members of education followed by Political Science and Psychology during 2002-2009. The highest numbers of International Conference Papers were presented by Economics followed by Education and Psychology during 2002-2009. The maximum numbers of theses were produced by the disciplines of Economics followed by Agricultural Economics and Psychology at MS/Mphil level. The highest numbers of PhD theses was produced by the discipline of Mass Communication followed by Economics and History during the reported period.
Table 4. Number of research publications and Dissertations produced by Faculty members and Students (2002-2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disciplines</th>
<th>MS/Mphil</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>PhD</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Research Papers</th>
<th>National Conference Papers</th>
<th>International Conference Papers</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Up to 2003</td>
<td>04-06</td>
<td>07-09</td>
<td></td>
<td>Up to 2003</td>
<td>04-06</td>
<td>07-09</td>
<td></td>
<td>Up to 2003</td>
<td>04-06</td>
<td>07-09</td>
<td></td>
<td>Up to 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Economics</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Communication</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Sciences</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Studies</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The comparative analysis of pervious data between different disciplines with the current research shows that in the discipline of anthropology, there were eight faculty members by 2001 including three having foreign degrees and five master degree holders. In the case of dissertations by 2001 only few PhD theses were produced (Tarar, 2005). The current research shows that the number of faculty members up to 2003 were nine, out of them three were masters, two were PhD local and foreign each. In 2004-2006 the number of faculty members and their qualifications remains the same. However the total number of faculty members during 2007-2009 again became the same as reported in 2001. While by qualification three were masters, one was ms/Mphil and two were PhD local and foreign each. The department of anthropology produced single PhD dissertation during the reported period.

In the discipline of Mass Communication there were total 64 teachers in Pakistan on permanent basis. Out of them 19 were females, 14 were PhD degree holder of which three had foreign degree and 13 had Mphil degrees. Since 1947-2001 the discipline of Mass Communication in five public sector universities produced 29 PhD dissertations (Hasan, 2005). According to the findings of the current study total numbers of faculty members in 12 departments of Mass Communication were 95 by 2009. Out of them 53 were masters, 15 were ms/Mphil, 19 were PhD local and eight were PhD foreign degree holders. However the selected departments of Mass Communication produced 86 PhD dissertations. Nearly 0.5 thesis per year was produced during 1947-2001 and almost 10 theses per year were produced 2001-2009. The rate of increase is 10 times higher in the reported period.

In the discipline of eco there were 203 faculty members in 18 departments by 2001. Out of them 54 were PhD degree holders 11 were Mphil, 127 were masters and 11 were not known. Total 229 PhD and Mphil theses were produced. Out of them 45 were PhD and 184 were Mphil dissertations respectively. Almost 4 theses per year were produced (karamat, 2005). The current study found that in 16 selected departments of economics, 189 faculty members were present during 2009. Out of them 84 were masters, 51 were MS/Mphil, 27 were PhD local and PhD foreign degree holders each. However 430 MS/Mphil dissertations and 45 PhD theses were produced. Almost 53 ms/Mphil theses were produced per year. While PhD dissertations were produced at the rate 5.6 per year during the period.

In the discipline of Education, there were 136 faculty members in 21 selected departments included in the study sample during 2001. Out of them 37 was PhD degree holders, 9 were Mphil and 75 were masters. However 11 had PhD foreign degrees and the remaining had degree from local institutions. Total 78 PhD and Mphil dissertations were produced in seven public sector universities with an average of 2 theses per year by 2001. Out of 78 theses, 82% theses were PhD and 18% were Mphil theses (Siagol, 2005). The 8 departments of Education selected in the study sample had 84 faculty members by 2009, in which 51 were masters, 8 were MS/Mphil, 21 were PhD local and four were PhD foreign degree holders. There were 15 MS/Mphil dissertations and 18 PhD theses produced in 8 departments of education during 2002-2009. Nearly two ms/Mphil theses were produced per year followed by 2.3 PhD dissertations per year.

In the discipline of History there were 75 faculty members by 2001 in 6 depts. out of them 22 were PhD, 9 were Mphil and the remaining 44 were masters’ degree holders. While four had PhD foreign degrees and the remaining 18 were locally qualified out of 22 Phds. Since the independence to 2001, the discipline of History had produced 43 PhD and 83 Mphil these out of 126 dissertations produced in 6 public sectors universities of Pakistan. Nearly 1.5 Mphil theses and less than one PhD theses were produced in above mentioned time period (Ali, 2005). The findings of the current study show that in seven selected departments of History, there were 51 faculty members having 14 masters, 20 MS/Mphil 13 PhD local and four PhD foreign degrees till 2009. Out of total 166 dissertations PhD theses contributed 30 and ms/Mphil theses were 136. Almost 17 ms/Mphil theses and nearly three and half PhD these were produced per year.

In the discipline of International Relations, there were 74 faculty members in 6 universities during 2001. Out of them only seven had PhD foreign degree while the remaining had PhD local degree. The seven departments of International Relations produced 57 Mphil and 11 Phd dissertations (Rais, 2005). The current study shows that four selected departments of International Relations had 46 faculty members. There were 25 masters, six MS/Mphil, 13 PhD local and 2 PhD foreign degree holders during 2009 respectively. The current study found that 54 MS/Mphil and seven PhD theses were produced during 2002-2009. Nearly seven MS/Mphil and less than one PhD theses were produced per year in the reported period.

In the discipline of Political Sciences, there were 61 faculty members in 7 departments during 2001. Out of them 20 had PhD degree, three had Mphil and 38 had masters degree. The origin of these PhD degree holders was unknown. In seven departments of Political Science, 82 theses were produced. In which 64 PhD and 18 Mphil theses were produced with an average of 1.2 PhD and 0.33 Mphil theses per year (Inayatullah et al., 2005). The current study found that in 8 selected departments of the study sample, there were 75 faculty members, in which 32 had masters, 25 ms/Mphil, 10 PhD local and 8 had PhD foreign degrees during 2009 respectively. Total 136 theses were produced in 8 departments of political science. Out of these the share of MS/Mphil theses was 126 and PhD was 10 with an average of 15.7 and 1.25 theses of ms/Mphil and PhD per year respectively in the reported period.

In the discipline of Psychology total 58 faculty members were present in departments by 2001. Out of 58 faculty members, 13 had PhD local degrees, nine foreign PhD, three Mphil and 28 had masters’ degrees respectively. The 8 departments of psychology produced 81 Mphil and 43 PhD theses during 1985-2000 (Pervaz & Ahmed, 2005). The
findings of the current study show that in 9 selected departments, there were 73 faculty members present during 2009. In which 22 were masters, 26 were MS/Mphil, 19 were PhD local and 6 were PhD foreign degree holders respectively. In nine departments 249 MS/Mphil and 27 PhD dissertations were produced with an average of 31 and 3.3 theses per year respectively during 2002-2009.

In the discipline of Sociology, there were 53 faculty members present in 8 departments by 2001. Out of them seven had PhD foreign degrees, four had PhD local, five were Mphil, and 37 were master degree holders. Total 3 Mphil and 25 PhD theses were produced in 5 departments of sociology (Hafeez, 2005). The current study found that in 12 selected departments of the study sample, there were 85 faculty members during 2009. In which 60 were masters, 16 were ms/Mphil, 8 were PhD local and 1 was PhD foreign degree holder. The PhD foreign degree faculty members increased one to four from 2002-2006 and decreased four to one from 2006-2009. The positive trend had been seen in the number of faculty members having PhD local degrees during the reported period. Total 19 PhD dissertations were produced in 12 departments of sociology in the reported period.

5. Conclusion

The significant increase was seen in quantitative indicators such as departmental growth, degree programs offered, student’s enrollment and passed out and number of faculty members. On the whole, data analysis explores that there is a tendency of improvement in all indicators of higher education in social sciences in Pakistan. The discussion has been done so far finds out that phenomenal increase was seen in quantitative indicators such as departmental growth, number of faculty members, students’ enrollment and passed out but as far as qualitative development was concerned, a moderate rate of improvement was observed in qualification of faculty members, dissertations and research publications. The current study was limited to only public sector universities which are heavily dependent on government for funding of academic and research activities. On the whole data shows, moderate tendency of improvements in all indicators of quality of higher education and research in social sciences in Pakistan.

REFERENCES


