An In-Depth Analysis of Regulations and Assessment of Top Researchers from Select Universities Under the Iran Ministry of Science, Research and Technology

Mahmood Moradi*[1], Sara Bahrami Nia[2], Vida Saifouri[3]

Abstract

Purpose: This study aimed to evaluate and analyze the regulations governing top researchers in Iranian universities under the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology. The research focused on assessing the strengths and weaknesses of these regulations through a comparative and scoring methodology.

Methodology: The study utilized an applied research design and employed the library research method. The research population included the regulations governing the selection of top researchers from various universities affiliated with the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology for the academic year 2020-2021. Data collection involved an examination and compilation of these regulations. The research utilized convenience sampling, and evaluation and content analysis techniques were applied to analyze the data.

Findings: The findings revealed variations in the regulations governing the selection of top researchers across the studied universities. These regulations demonstrated differences in scoring methodologies and attention to detail, lacking a unified structure. Notable discrepancies were observed in the scoring of printed books, points distribution, assessment of guided dissertations, and evaluation of research projects.

Conclusion: The study concluded that there is no standardized criterion for selecting top researchers across Iranian universities affiliated with the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology. Consequently, the establishment of a unified framework with consistent rules for identifying outstanding researchers nationwide is deemed necessary. Such an initiative would ensure fair competition among researchers and emphasize the efficiency and practicality of their research as the criteria for superiority.

Value: This research contributes to the comparative examination of selection criteria for the top researchers in Iran, which is a relatively limited area of study.

1. Assistant Professor, Department of Knowledge and Information Science, Razi University, Iran. (Corresponding author) MMoradi44@gmail.com
2. Ph.D. in Knowledge and Information Science, Razi University, Iran.
3. PhD in Knowledge and Information Science, Razi University, Iran.

Extended Abstract

Purpose: In modern society, knowledge is regarded as a fundamental indicator and driver of progress and excellence. Assessing knowledge levels relies on the production and consumption of information, as well as access to reliable scientific sources. Knowledge acquisition can occur through studying existing information or conducting research. Consumption of information involves relying on prior research findings, while information production stems from current observations and analyses. Therefore, research activities constitute the primary source of producing new knowledge. Research in any field, form, or level represents a systematic and coherent effort to advance existing knowledge. It serves as a means to address problems across various domains and gain a deeper understanding of the surrounding concepts. Ultimately, research expands the boundaries of knowledge and paves the way for future development (Qaramelki, 2016). This study aimed to evaluate and analyze the regulations governing top researchers in Iranian universities affiliated with the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology. The research employed a comparative and scoring methodology to identify the strengths and weaknesses of these regulations.

Methodology: The present study is classified as qualitative-applied research, aligning with the research purpose. The method of data collection involved content analysis and a descriptive-library approach. The research community focused on the selection regulations for the best researchers in Iranian universities under the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology in 2021. Six universities from the western region of Iran (Razi, Kermanshah University of Technology, Kurdistan, Lorestan, Ilam, Malair, and Boali Hamedan) were selected using a sampling method for investigation and analysis. One limitation of this research is the lack of availability of up-to-date regulations from various universities in the country, as well as the presence of ambiguity and defects in the data of the regulation tables.

Findings: The conducted investigations revealed significant differences in the components of selecting top researchers among the universities studied. These differences and discrepancies create inconsistencies in the selection process across universities. Upon examining and comparing the general conditions of the universities for participating in the competition to select the best researchers, it becomes evident that each university has its own distinct requirements without following a standardized model. The focus here is not on the difficulty or ease of meeting the conditions to enter the competition, but rather on ensuring researchers have equal opportunities throughout the country.

Conclusion: The findings demonstrate variations in the scoring methods for articles published in different journals among the mentioned universities. Razi University of Kermanshah and Malayer University exhibit similar scoring methods to some extent based on the scores. Additionally, Kurdistan University pays meticulous attention to scoring research and emphasizes attention to detail. Highlighting the value of qualitative studies that can be utilized is crucial for research evaluation. For instance, the regulations of Razi, Kermanshah, Malayer, and Kurdistan universities score high-cited and top-quality articles 1.5 to 2 times more than others, which is laudable. Similarly, there is a need to differentiate between articles indexed in JCR journals and those indexed in SCIE and SSCI citation index, as well as journals indexed in ESCI, due to significant score discrepancies. This distinction arises from the journals not having the latest index based on the JCR 2023 Q, which needs to be acknowledged.

Value: This research contributes to the comparative examination of selection criteria for the top researchers in Iran, which is a relatively limited area of study. The findings of this research can serve as a valuable resource for policymakers and research and technology managers in Iran.References

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