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Determinants of Academic Environment of Higher Education Institutions

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Abstract: The academic environment is what motivates academic institutions to implement novel concepts. This study looks at the connection between students' satisfaction with their education and factors affecting the academic quality including the expertise of the teachers (the academic standard of their instruction), the courses that are available, the learning environment, and physical environment amenities. The wants and expectations of its students are what higher education institutions are concentrating on recognizing and meeting. Academic achievement of students, teaching effectiveness, classroom climate, learning environments and institution reputation are some examples of these variables. Only those institutions can succeed in this cutthroat climate which offers their students a high-quality education and a supportive learning environment as these aspects can affect their admissions decision. Such elements may make students feel satisfied with their university and may influence their decision to enroll.

Keywords: Higher education institutions, instructors' qualifications, classroom amenities and learning environments.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the most important aspects of human resource development. The student's performance plays an important role in producing best quality graduates who will become great leaders and manpower for the country thus responsible for the country's socio economic development. Academic Environment is one of the major factors considered by employers in hiring workers especially the fresh graduates. Thus, students have to put the greatest effort in their study to find good grades and to prepare themselves for future opportunities in their career at the same time to fulfill the employer's demand. Students' performance also determines quality of education that will be passed to the students by the potential teachers at primary and secondary school levels. Poor performance in Colleges of Education spells doom for the students whose life becomes uncertain and full of misery. Students' academic performance is affected by several factors which include students' learning skills, parental background, peer influence, teachers' quality, learning infrastructure among others. Government efforts to improve academic performance have led to series of interventions like scholarship, training of the lecturers, providing of infrastructure and so on.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A literature evaluation is a crucial and significant step in every research procedure. It is crucial to review the prior literature in order to provide the proper direction for the investigation.

Alani & Iusanya (2008) this paper shows that federal universities fared better than the state universities in the accreditation exercises. The proprietors of the universities (federal government and state governments) need to inject more funds to ensure sufficiency of physical facilities, academic and non-academic staff, library facilities and materials. The

professional bodies have to ensure that the curricula of professional programmers are reviewed regularly to meet national and global standards so that they will gain good rating from employers of labour.

Hill (2010) the purpose of this study is to analyze the impact of classroom environment factors on individual student satisfaction measures and on student evaluation of teaching in the university environment. Two hundred thirty seven business students were surveyed regarding their perceptions of classroom environment factors and their satisfaction with their classroom, instructor and course. Student survey responses were utilized to measure the extent to which they perceived classroom upgrades and their preferences for upgrades in the areas of seating, lighting and classroom technology.

Butt & Rehman (2010) in their study evaluated the students satisfaction in higher education in Pakistan .The study focuses on the factors like teachers expertise, course offered, learning environment and classroom facilities which can affect the student satisfaction with the quality of education offered by different private and public sector universities in Pakistan. It indicates that female students are lesser satisfied with their education as compared to male students. Women get fewer opportunities than men in education many families normally do not allow their daughters to get higher education. The proportion of female students is also smaller than male students both in private and public sector universities. Female students face more problems in reaching and studying at university than male students.

Jayanthi et.al (2014) conducted a study to determine how factors such as gender, age nationality of student, part time employment, extracurricular activities and interest in pursuing higher studies affected academic success. The student's cumulative Grade Point average was used as a measure of academic Performance. The data were analyzed quantitatively and the results showed that factors such as gender, nationality of student, co curricular activities and an interest in pursuing higher degrees affected student academic scores. The findings of this study have indicated that gender plays a part in the student academic achievement; Studies have showed that female student performing better academically than male.

Manasseh Men (2017)in this study revealed that Accreditation of undergraduate programs do not only fall on staff development, funding, physical facilities but also on adequacy of library facilities and services this is in line with the National University commission plan which inspires bringing of library services closer to each student and staff. Therefore, university libraries are considered as one of the fundamental factors required for accreditation of any academic program in every university in Nigeria.

Hao and Perez (2021)The result of this study could be used by managers who make capital decisions on classrooms construction upgrades and facility managers who aim to improve the satisfaction and performance of students in higher education institutions. Furthermore, the environmental factors for classroom design that enhance performance and satisfaction have been used to develop an enabled classroom that can boost the construction of smart spaces and building.

Fernandes (2021) in this study it has been observed that parameters of Indian accreditation and ranking bodies viz. "Institutional value and ethics", "governance, leadership and management", outreach and inclusivity' are of societal significance which should be added in the global accreditation and ranking framework. The most common parameter for assessment in both Indian and global accreditation and ranking bodies are teaching-learning curriculum, research, citations and industry linkage.

Azmi et.al (2021)this study evaluated the degree of the evaluation of the educational management program in light of the academic accreditation standards in the universities of Jordan in Irbid from the point of view of the faculty members. The researcher outcome to the fact that universities are pursuing innovation in curriculum administration systems, taking into account institutional accreditation requirements. Universities are also concerned with implementing a variety of initiatives and policies involving funding, technology and expertise.

Ruszczynska & Bulska (2021) in this study examined that Accreditation has a positive impact on the effective of laboratories and inspires trust among customers. Having a quality management system has contributed to establishing many R&D projects with external entities and has a positive impact on the evaluation of research projects. Besides, the fact that the

University of Warsaw has accredited laboratories is an additional profit for which the University receives additional points when applying for grants from external sources. In many applications for R&D projects, having accredited laboratories by the applicant gives a high score.

Alam & Islam (2022) concluded that increased and improved students' academic performance are some crucial steps regarding securing admission first choice of the department and advising about peer influence should be taken in to consideration. In result, excessive internet use can impede the progress of the student. Thus, the academic performance of the students in higher education will be enhanced and it should help to produce a learned citizen as well as to produce quality manpower for the nation.

III. DETERMINATES OF ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

1. Physical Environment of the University Classroom

The impact of classroom environment variables on individual student happiness measures on student satisfaction measurements and on student evaluation of instruction in universities has been the main focus of the literature linked to the physical classroom environment. Fisher(2001) these studies find that building conditions such as lighting, temperature, student comfort and classroom technology are significantly positively related to student outcome including performance and attitude. However, there have been relatively few studies that have been relatively few studies that have examined the impact of classroom environment at institutions of higher learning (Siegel 2003).

As college and universities spend millions of dollars on facilities, it is important to analyze the impact of different environment features to ensure that students, faculty and institutions receive the greatest benefit from spending on learning environments. Finally, physical characteristics of rooms may affect student evolution of teaching.

According to Omolewa (2010), enhancing the learning environment through the addition of libraries, labs, dependable energy, water supply, staff and student security, academic freedom, and now the internet, are among the issues facing higher education in Nigeria. It's crucial to upgrade the facilities and technology recommended in accreditations. However, some institutions or programs require improved infrastructure. Once the library has been accredited, it must have a big number of reading rooms and self-study spaces with a large collection of books or periodicals, especially in niche, specialized areas. Computers at the library must have access to e-books and e-journals and be connected to the Internet. This study should benefit administrators who make capital and infrastructure decisions regarding college and university classroom improvements, faculty members who develop and rely upon student evolutions of teaching and researchers who examine the factors impacting student satisfaction and learning.

2. Students' academic performance

A CGPA that indicates excellent performance and academic success According to Abbasi and Mir (2012) posited that students themselves play critical roles in getting good grades and must therefore explore all opportunities available within their academic environment. Academic success is measured in institutions in a variety of method, including cumulative grade point average, grade point average and test results with GPA being used to measure student achievement in a certain semester.

According to Cambridge university research academic achievement is frequently measured in terms of exam results. It is frequently defined by a student performance on tests, course assignment and examination. As an performance measure of academic achievement, academic performance reveals itself in the class of degree acquired.

3. Academic reputation and internationalization

In Haryana, there is an increasing need to ensure the academic atmosphere of institutions due to expansion, privatization, and globalization. The loss of cultural identity is unquestionably the most important danger element associated with the process of internationalization, according to Knight (2007). Additionally, the internationalization of higher education is growing the

socioeconomic class divide and resulting in prejudice against students from developing nations. It is viewed as posing a threat to the intellectual, cultural, and economic well-being of developing nations. In addition to other effects, the following are some significant goals of accreditation:

- Grandparents' international mobility
- Quality Assurance
- Improved Academic Procedures
- Educational Marketing and Competitiveness
- Improved Academic Reputation on a National and International Level

4. Faculty expertise

The most visible impact of accreditation on the academic environment of teaching is the teaching model. Many Indian institution/universities still rely on an academic year system. All member institution to be surveyed student's feedback on teaching methods of lecturers. This activity improves lecturer's performance. The self-evaluation is conducted in conjunction with feedback from students about teaching activities of lecturers. Student's comments and recommendations help us to adjust the instruction and assessment methods.

Park & So (2014) suggest that the generic and centralized professional development opportunities are not generally to the satisfaction of Korean teachers since they do not address the individual needs of teachers and classrooms. However, there seems to be a more recent emphasis on teacher-led professional development which may address some of these concerns (National Centre on Education and the Economy (2018).

Prior to accreditation, Institute comes in contact with students by self-evaluation process through database of students. It helps in easily carrying out a survey with them. Consequently, a database related to teaching activities are developed, finalized and is regularly updated.

As accreditations recommends installed projectors in most lecture rooms and encourages teachers to use Power Point presentations in their classes. All the electronic lecture notes are stored in institution's database and shared among the teachers.

Accreditation also impacts the academic level of teaching activities through the admission of new enrolments. New students have to be admitted when they have earned high marks on the entrance examination. However, with by carrying out examinations to evaluate the competencies of potential new enrolments.

5. Management and supporting staff

The academic caliber of staff and auxiliary personnel is improved via accreditation. Initially, recruitment and professional development policies for lecturers are created, amended and put into practice. Following assessor suggestions, a number of new points have been introduced to these laws to increase openness. Many institutions have also implemented new admissions policies for the support staff. According to Su and Wood there are three criteria of a good academic staff at the university. First, the good academic staff at the university is those who reflect on what they do to develop a greater awareness of themselves and their students. Second, a good academic staff at the university is those involve students in dialogue motivated by a desire to know and understand them and their own practice better. Third, a good academic staff at the university are expected highly qualified for the position and have the specialist knowledge in the subject area which they teach, as well as, the necessary skills to pass on this knowledge to student.

6. Location

This factor will give a positive relationship since it will transmit to the ability of the students itself together with his family condition. Student from family with low income will take it as an important variable before selecting the institution. Joseph (2018) reviewing previous research stated that research has consistently shown that university location can be a major issue for potential student decision to apply and enroll. The university proximity and distance from home could also give a big impact on student choice to enroll in university. Besides location is included among the variables to university attributes which both students and parents rated as most important. From all the researches done, location is time and again highly ranked in terms of importance during the search stage of the university choice process.

7. Placement/Industrial Linkage

It is important for the fresher to look at the stage specific requirement to look at the stage specific requirement in the recruitment drives. Each of staged typically requires certain set of competencies. In fact, the goal the recruiters and criteria varies at each stage in the process.

8. Selection Process

Ayesha Yaseen (2015) has presented the recruitment and selection process of educational sectors. Here the higher education institutions with the placement impact are studied to recommend for economic growth. SPSS software is used for data analysis which utilized the information about lecture other management staff and internet based data reports. This systematical approach sometime influenced with the political parties. Here this various data analysis approach helps to promote the reputed companies and institutions. This kind of analysis reduces the influenced people recommendation and provides more opportunities to qualified persons.

9. Courses offered

Students make decisions throughout their college career and decision-making is an important element in the learning process. F. Yates & Patalano (2003) define a decision as a commitment to a course of action that is intended to produce a satisfying state of affairs. The course selection decisions of students are among the most defining in the success of their learning. Course selection process involves a series of sequential, interdependent decisions about several courses (that is, about specific units of instruction in a weekly time table that will comprise the student's study programmed in a given term), where each choice modifies the considerations and the weighting of course characteristics for the next.

Babad & Kaplowitz (1999) analyzed the content of student course guides as it related to course guides as it related to course selection from their finding , they argue that student have specific information that will guide them in their in their course selection and they search out that information in student course guide.

10. Personality Development and Industry Exposure

WEF (2015) further proposes three interpersonal skills: communication, collaboration and leadership and seven character traits or virtues, which also can be defined as intrapersonal traits: critical problem-solving, creativity, curiosity, initiative, persistence, adaptability, and social and cultural awareness. WEF groups these in slightly different compositions as Competencies – how students approach complex challenges and Character Qualities – how students approach their changing environment. Industry visit talk about learning beyond the classroom, the experience of partial workouts and theory gains. Both are inseparable components of education in the broader sense.

IV. CONCLUSION

It is advised that we place more emphasis on the key players in ensuring quality in education: the learning environment, teachers, support staff, and students. This is because quality assurance systems in higher education vary from country to country and how quality is perceived, measured and understood by stakeholders.

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