POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND ITS ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF UNDERGRADUATE

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Introduction

To date, graduate programs in some of countries continue to seriously suffer from severe retardation as they lack tight-knit strategic planning aimed at advancing these programs to the nth degree. In addition, it is devoid of academic and educational strategies the outcomes of which can be utilized to achieve the goal of developing the educational process and therefore the development of science and human knowledge.

Among its major failures is its failure to produce scientific research topics as well as a lack of competent university professors, both of which impede the development of programs for institutional education and the development of scientific outcomes in those institutions. Such considerations have prompted the researcher to research the role of graduate research in developing primary studies.

This paper has been divided into three parts that addresses the underlying issues and solutions vis-à-vis the educational retardation in creating orientation programs capable of channeling scientific research at a tertiary level. The objective is to improve primary education on the one hand and to improve the process of orienting the topics of higher education on another.

Part 1 investigates how the topics introduced at a tertiary level should be oriented and how they should relate to the objectives of the educational institution.

Part 2 investigates the programs capable of improving methodological studies in educational institutions in accordance with the outcomes of tertiary education.

Part 3 suggests practical steps that aim at utilizing the outcomes of studies carried out at the tertiary level.

Although very few studies have been carried out in this area, the researcher has managed to use samples that thoroughly diagnose the problems put forth in this study. Moreover, very few studies consist of substantial data and statistics.

This study is limited spatially to research universities and centers while the past two decades formed the time boundaries of the study.
This study attempts to identify and explain the role and impact centralized curricula and research at the tertiary level on improving the level of primary education. It highlights the importance of curricula orientation to increase the qualification of professors and students alike as this is an integral process that complements one another.

In addition, this study attempts to answer the question of the importance of these sorts of curricula by highlighting its impact on sustained growth and development in educational institutions. This is followed by highlighting the importance of improving the core components of the educational process (i.e. professors, teachers, and students). Although the impact of most of the entries of these curricula is no longer invisible, however, we initially presume on the ground of some primary data that there is a substantial impact of these entries if gathered in one compendium. We also can presume its integral role in advancing the components of the educational process.

Part 1

Postgraduate research orientation vis-à-vis the objectives of the educational institution.

The concept of postgraduate studies and its objectives

1 -Post Graduate Study is made to carry out important researches-
Postgraduate studies are theoretical and empirical curricula designed for all academic sciences that take place after a bachelor degree. It represents the highest level of specialized programs in human development. It views research as a means to fulfill the cultural and educational needs of mankind.

Postgraduate studies have educational and social objectives. Although undergraduate students learn a great deal of how to conduct research, however, postgraduate students are more knowledgeable and precise in their specialization. Furthermore, postgraduate education enables students to conduct researches and investigations in order to advance their depth of knowledge and specialization. It also enables students with in-depth knowledge to take part in different scholarly encounters such as writing books, participating in conferences and seminars, giving lectures etc.

2-People of higher learning mostly occupy high positions in a society-

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2 See Ahmad IbnHilal al-'Umayli, Phd theses, orientation of research to instruct sciences in the light of academic fields and some academic and research criteria in dissertations of Post Graduate Studies, at the university of Um al-Qurān and the university of Yarmūk between 1990 – 2008, : a comparative and analytical study, supervised by Dr. Prof. 'Abdul 'akimMubarak, p31
3-Higher Education People mostly contribute in the development of society.

In regards to its social aspect, postgraduate studies enables students to effectively take part in the development of their respective societies. For instance, people with higher learning often occupy positions of authority in a society. In this light, those with postgraduate education play key roles in developing societies. This emphasizes the significance of postgraduate studies and its vital role in improving primary studies as well as orienting it for the well-being of the educational process.

**Objectives and criteria of postgraduate studies:**

4- Post Graduate researches increase depth of knowledge and specialization.

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4Sulaymān Ibn Qāsim Al-‘īd, *the pursuit of Post Graduate Studies between achievement of aspiration and confrontation of reality*, an article published on the website of Alukah:
http://www.alukah.net/Web/eleid/0/18708/#ixzz1gPU8O0si
Despite the fact that there are slight differences in the details and descriptions of postgraduate studies, the objectives of postgraduate education in most of the world’s universities are similar.

While primary studies focus on secondary school students, postgraduate studies receive students of primary studies and aims at equipping these students with experience and expertise in their specialization. As for tertiary education, based on the assumption that they will be of greater benefit to society, tertiary education is designed and planned more thoroughly in order to ensure and maintain its significance and impact.\(^5\)

**Curriculum Failure\(^6\)**

5-The failure of research bodies in Muslim countries to design appropriate syllabuses-

The research problem revolves around the failure of research bodies in Muslim countries to design appropriate syllabuses for students of primary studies.\(^7\) It focuses on how the improvement of these syllabuses has been delegated to each respective board, which often repeats the same information mentioned in previous studies. At best, they propose modifications to the syllabuses, which are more akin to routine or ritual than they are to academic endeavor. To be more precise, it has become a process of “change for change”, not a process of change to keep

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\(^5\) see the guide book of standard criteria at Post Graduate Studies, 1st ed, March 2009, National committee for Quality of education, Egypt, p7


up with the changes that occur internationally in the field of education that may necessitate change and improvement.  

6- For good researches, change must take place in the curricula or syllabus from time to time.

Some people may question the significance of prioritizing postgraduate research in improving the syllabuses of primary studies under the pretense that these researches will be linear. The response to this question, is that a given subject should be introduced to a number of researchers from different universities or from within one university to look into the matter from different perspectives. They should then collect the findings and assess the feasibility of implementing the proposals. Another option is to broaden the scope of the inquiry that can allow a number of researchers to take part in writing on the same subject in order to reach a common view whereby a specialized board should be given enough time to study the status-quo. These researchers should be guided and supervised by academic mentors to ensure that the findings are correct and fruitful.

As far as improving syllabus is concerned, the phases through which the students go through has they grow and their social ranks should be taken as case studies while conducting research.

Since educational systems pertaining to syllabus are considered a supporting element for the implementation of the educational policy in its different terms, designers of these systems have given more attention to human development. This is noticeable, for instance, in the objectives of the syllabus of Islamic education put forward by the Islamic University of Medina; because, knowing different aspects of human development in its phases as well as how to channel them

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8 Ibid, Phillip. N, & Joy, P.
educationally and professionally, is one of the major objectives of Medina University.\textsuperscript{10} However, some universities are designed randomly or are devoid of, at least, some sort of discipline.\textsuperscript{11}

**The significance of scientific research\textsuperscript{12}**

A scientific research is considered significant or insignificant depending on the sort of problems it addresses or tries to tackle. Furthermore, to supersede the anarchism of assigning research statements in postgraduate studies, administrations of postgraduate studies must strike thorough scientific balance between the study of the legacy, the revival of its vital anecdotes and details as well as the improvement of sciences in different expertise, and between improving primary education\textsuperscript{13}. These two goals, namely the revival of the legacy, and the improvement of undergraduate studies particularly primary education, if meshed together, will enable us to study the educational system in the era where Islamic civilization once flourished because there is a logical link between Islamic renaissance and educational systems and methods. Such investigations will help meet the crucial criteria of the objectives put forward to improve

\textsuperscript{10}Abdul Ra\textless mâ\textgreater mbn\textless Abdullâ\textgreater <, Islamic orientation of Human development: Post Graduate Students as case study, Islamic University in Medina, twenty seventh year, Editions: (103-104), 1416/1417, p7

\textsuperscript{11}orientation of research to instruct sciences in the light of academic fields, p34


\textsuperscript{13}Ibid, Roy Preece.
undergraduate studies. For example, these investigations should include themes such as originality, modernity, updated tools of study, and the relevance of the topics vis-à-vis the needs of learners and society, the improvement of knowledge, and theoretical and empirical contributions.\textsuperscript{14}

It is worth noting that this form of research is highly required and of utmost importance in the Muslim and Arab world because existing research are full of scientific and intellectual flaws and mistakes.

The role of sponsorship and supporting programs in postgraduate research

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{chart.png}
\caption{Survey results on the necessity of financial support and supporting activities.}
\end{figure}

8- Financial support and supporting activities have an impact on the orientation of researches at Post Graduate level-

It goes without saying that financial support, guide posters, curricula, and supporting activities have an impact on the orientation of postgraduate research\textsuperscript{15}. In recent years, there has been a qualitative shift in the view of advanced universities about the standards upon which the performance and the system of a university should be evaluated. The size of expenditure on researches and publications, for example, has become one fundamental criterion under which universities are evaluated and ranked. There is a dire to create a generation of experts who are able to engage in scientific research and who are able to utilize findings of a given research to bring about a qualitative scientific and intellectual difference. Scientific research in advanced universities has become as important as teaching. A university is considered outstanding

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\textsuperscript{14} Ibid, p37-43
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academically and administratively if it is able to simultaneously advance knowledge and thought and produce scholars and thinkers. Hence, the task of orienting postgraduate studies for the sake of advancing primary studies lies primarily on the shoulders of universities. Therefore, it is paramount that universities allocate a considerable financial budget to ensure necessities such as suitable curricula, guide rosters, advertisements, and incentives in order to motivate researchers to eagerly and seriously engage in the experience of advancing primary studies. For this purpose, the advertisements and the allocated incentives should be directed to:

1. Teaching staff, to encourage them to supervise studies of this kind and to incentivize thorough study in this field;
2. Students, to encourage them to engage in studies of this kind and to raise their awareness about its future significance;
3. Research institutions and corporations concerned with university-education, along with schools, and government ministries in order to gain their support to conduct such studies;
4. Institutions, cultural organizations, and intellectually, socially and politically influential personalities.

Suggested back-up programs

9- The design of back up agendas is necessary in the process of orientation in Post Graduate to be successful-

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16IyyâdZakîAbulHâdîf, *study problems faced by Post Graduate students at Islamic University in Gaza and how to overcome them*, a complementary research, p10-9, (a part of M.A requirements), the roots of education in Education department at Islamic University in Gaza, 2005, p44
For the process of postgraduate research orientation to be successful, there must be a design of back-up agendas\textsuperscript{18} able to bring about the means of success and development in such studies. Some of these agendas, for instance, include:

First: a comprehensive definition of primary and secondary data as well as studies related to the field of primary education development;

Second: technological sciences and programs related to studies of primary education development;

Third: training courses concerned with human development and methods of critical thinking;

Fourth: skills of research, analysis, and statistics;

Fifth: human development programs such as language skills, thinking and leadership skills, acquiring basic skills in a given field, advantaging from intensive agendas aiming at broadening the horizons of the researchers, developing training and public speaking skills, and leadership, planning and management skills\textsuperscript{19}.

10-Training courses of (multiple options) must be strictly required to post graduate students -


A MA or PhD student by research should be strictly required to take up such training courses before he or she can enroll in any university.

**Orientation principles**

Orientation guidelines must be taken into consideration while reviewing the research statements in postgraduate studies concerned with developing curricula of higher education. Orienting principles is one of the key words addressed by such studies 20.

First: such studies should use the best academic approach of documenting and organizing the data. They should find the ideal means to present such data to the students in a flexible manner.

Second: studies should master academic methods concerned with historical investigations in order to reach objective conclusions. They should also avoid details, controversial issues, and political motivations so as to avoid confusion and controversy.

Third: in order to avoid mistakes, repetition, shortage, and expatiation in curricula, the studies concerned with curricula development should lay down unified and concise academic criteria to evaluate and examine the results of each study separately as well as together.

Fourth: these studies should be solidified with scientific evidence, which comply with logic, Islamic law, and reason.

Fifth: these programs should be formulated in accordance with the feasibility of presenting them for review and improvement within a timeframe that must be appointed by specialized academic studies by demonstrating the causes of assigning a timeframe.

**The role of administrations and department professors**

It is worth pointing out that administrations and professors 21 play important roles in designing and determining the mechanism for selecting the themes and key words a department needs for its programs and primary studies curricula. This does not mean turning a blind eye to the significance of other mechanisms such as surveys and questionnaires which departments must carry out on students at the end of every academic year in an effort to pinpoint the advantages and disadvantages of the programs and curricula. In addition, researchers at institutions of higher learning should be provided with this report in order to reach concise scientific conclusions.

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Part 2

Primary studies development agenda based on postgraduate research

11- The role of the practical mechanisms to make advantage of the findings reached by Post Graduate Research-

Given the importance of this subject, decision-making centers in countries aspiring to attain the level of developed countries in education and research, should make a timeless effort in designing practical mechanisms to make advantage of the findings reached by postgraduate research particularly the findings of studies concerned with developing the curricula of primary studies. This is to maintain the well-being of the purposes put forward by the educational process whose foremost goal is to fulfill comprehensive and flourishing development for all categories and sectors of a society.

The orientation of postgraduate research to develop primary studies will equip students of the latter with in-depth knowledge and creativity and it will help advance programs and curricula of primary studies.
The significance of such program

Such programs aim firstly at tasking universities with the fundamental duties they are founded for such as ensuring the durable development and advancement of society. Secondly, they aim at meeting the needs of a society by means of engaging its energy to develop scientific movement and social concepts. Third, they aim at providing mechanisms to develop curricula as well as other programs. Fourth, they should take part in developing and administering criteria for comprehensive quality and sustainable development. Fifth, they should link the objectives of postgraduate studies with problems faced by education in general. Furthermore, they should bridge the gap between these objectives and the need of a society in all its sectors and categories, including students of primary studies. Finally, they should redefine the aim of culture and tradition as a means of excellence in creativity and assiduous contribution in the process of human development.

Problems treated by such programs

Such programs deal with various problems, including, for instance, firstly, individualism, eclecticism, and indistinctness in the reconstruction of the programs of primary studies. Secondly, it deals with how to effectively and realistically link findings of research with programs and mechanisms of social development. Third, such programs set out objective goals

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of scientific research. They channel researchers towards choosing topics that are more challenging for their research. They emphasize the significance of a researcher choosing a topic based on his or her insight, conviction, desire, and more importantly, expertise. Fourth, such researchers should be able to organize efforts, to coordinate goals and objectives, and to unify views vis-à-vis the programs and goals of primary studies. Finally, they should be able to unify the programs of primary studies by making them a solid base for postgraduate studies, rendering it more proficient and effective in the process of the development of natural and social science.

A focused study has set out a sample of problems faced by postgraduate students at the Islamic University in GAZA. The survey claimed that the problems are primarily social and financial, followed by managerial, academic, and psychological problems.

Therefore, such programs should contribute in treating social and financial issues by giving away financial allowances to serve the process of developing any research aiming at developing primary studies. In addition, they should contribute in setting effective mechanisms to tackle management, academic, and psychological problems.

**Problems faced by higher education**


24. Iyyād Zākî Abūl Hādî. *Study problems faced by Post Graduate students at Islamic University in Gaza and how to overcome them*. p94

25. Opcit, Johnstone, D. Bruce.
The focus in higher education in Arab countries has shifted from intellectual, spiritual, and psychological aspects of education to technological aspects. Higher education should focus on constructing a new personality in a progressing modern Arab society that is in line with national and international development.  

Higher Education in Arab countries in the past and the present vis-à-vis future aspirations

Islamic civilization had, in its early years, primary and postgraduate studies but with terms and labels which differed from current terminologies. In Tunisia, for instance, in the city of Qairawân, founded by ‘UqbahIbnNaﬁ’, academic and scholarship movement boomed in the first century of Islam. Furthermore, the city of Qairawan was an advanced center of scholarship at that time to which students from all across the world travelled. Afterwards, the center for higher education moved from Qairawan to Zaitunah whereby the system of education was promoted and developed to meet then the academic demand. Tutors and sheikhs were subject to the process of promotion and enhancement. Another example of advanced scholarship is Libya. Scholarship flourished in a masjid known as Jamī’AmrIbn al-‘Ā# which became known as the Nāfilah masjid. In the third century, the grand masjid known as Jamī’ al-Kabīr also turned into a center of scholarship wherein advanced postgraduate studies were conducted.

Al-Madani has classified the stages of education in the early years of Islam as follows:

Ribá‘át: they are education systems. The most renowned Ribá‘ was Qasr^arâbuls. It was founded by HarthamahIbnAyûn, the then ruler of Libya.

Madâ‘ris: are also education system, which represent modern high schools.

Zawâyâ: represent today’s preparatory studies

Katâtíb: represent primary education

This is a brief historical abstract of the efforts of early Muslim scholars towards organizing educational systems.

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26 MâlikIbn N, Ta ammulâr, Dâr al-Fikr, Damascus, 1970, p194
28 See Abdul Ra<man \abannakah, Islamic Civilization: its foundations, means, illustrations of how Muslims brought it into life and some of its impact on other nations, 1ªed, Dâr al-Qalam, Damascus, 1998, 604
Part 3
Practical means for benefitting from the findings reached by postgraduate research

Problems and solutions

Post Graduate research should be designed in such a way that addresses the problems faced by primary studies. This substantial solution can help address the problem of retardation in primary studies.

14-Solutions for Post Graduate research problems-

Here are some of practical approaches:

**Permanent committees**
There should be scholarly and permanent committees whose tasks are as follows:

1-To study the research findings and select suitable concepts for primary studies;
2-To communicate with experts concerning the findings;
3-To keep a pace with the latest developments in international educational standards;
4-To monitor the execution questionnaires and surveys to determine the views of people regarding developing programs and curricula;
5-To contribute in developing postgraduate systems to suit primary studies

**Continual courses in development**
To achieve the goal of orienting postgraduate studies towards benefitting primary studies, continual training courses should be dedicated to develop teachers and researchers’ skills in designing programs and educational blueprints that meet the goals of this process.  

Here are some skills researchers and mentors need to have in this process:

1. Training courses in librarianship, research, analysis, and editing;
2. Training courses in computer, word processing programs, referencing, cauterization, and how to benefit from all relevant techniques;
3. Training courses in means of explanation and pedagogic methods;
4. To organize competitions where departments and researchers, individually or collectively, can take part in order to develop programs and generate findings that tackle specific problems;
5. Training courses in statistics, how to conduct a questionnaire, and how to use cutting edge techniques and technologies to reach accurate findings;
6. To organize give-and-take sessions to determine the latest developments of similar institutions operating and to be acquainted with the most outstanding details and findings achieved by these institutions;
7. Training courses in socializing and communication in an effort to serve the activities of developing programs and curricula;
8. To organize a workshop regarding the importance of attending continuous training programs to motivate professors and researchers to take advantage of all the above.

Studying previous experiments and research conducted in the field of postgraduate studies orientation for the development of primary studies is a practical tool that can be used to design a practical work plan for the betterment of primary studies. It is equally important to communicate with other research centers and institutions in order to benefit from their experiments and to have joint activities with the purpose of designing appropriate mechanisms capable of changing the findings of postgraduate studies into new programs and curricula applicable to primary studies.

Among these centers, for example, are:

Islamic studies development at Ahmad Dahlan University in Indonesia develops the skills of the teaching staff and provides research services as well as financial aid.

The postgraduate council in Oman operates in accordance with its vision to develop the level of comprehension in postgraduate institutions. Moreover, it works at increasing the quality of its graduates so as to meet the aspirations of the market. It attempts to increase the ratio of

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30 see the guide book of standard criteria at Post Graduate Studies, 1st ed, March 2009, p12-13
31 Ahmad Da<án University, Indonesia: http://uad.ac.id/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=20&lang=ar
postgraduate comprehension to 52%. It has also setup fund boxes which are sponsored by the private sector.32

The Supreme Council of Education, in Qatar has the supreme power to design education policy as well as agendas of education development in the country. It is also in its jurisdiction to mentor and ensure the policies and plans have been effectively carried out.33

The project and its relevance to future studies

Future studies are relevant to this topic since the aim of the orientation of postgraduate research is to develop primary studies for the present and future generations. Future studies should take into account the needs of these two generations through developing appropriate programs and curricula for primary studies34.

The impact of the retardation of primary studies on social development

As long as education is the backbone of advancement in any society, we have to struggle and work hard so as to enhance and develop our systems of education. By so doing, we render a great service to the development of our own societies intellectually and socially. Failing to do so, will unfortunately, put our future at risk. Furthermore, the advanced states that we see nowadays have reached this level because they honor and revere knowledge35. Not only do they idolize knowledge but they also advocate development programs and systems of how to treat knowledge at all levels including primary studies. Social development cannot be properly achieved without sound primary studies, which is considered the social, cultural, and intellectual foundation of a society.

Recommendations

To use a specific amount of graduate research so as to develop primary studies;
To organize a conference in order to discuss this substantial issue;
To emphasize, via university publications as well as through media, the significance of postgraduate research and education in developing primary studies;
To hold debate sessions and workshops with the purpose of being informed of other views. It is also a platform where views can be exchanged for the sake of reaching better outcomes.

33 The Supreme Council of Education, Qatar: http://www.sec.gov.qa/section/sec
Conclusion:

The education programs in general and the post graduate programs in specific, is one of the major issues the Muslim countries are facing nowadays, our study tried to shed light on the reality of this programs and examined its deficiencies, and finally the study come up with a suitable strategies and solutions that its usage became a necessary in order to develop this kind of programs. A study of this kind shows how people, nations, and civilizations are concerned with education. In addition, it demonstrates how wide and complicated this issue is. It reveals the challenges and responsibilities resting on the shoulders of scholars, thinkers, and researchers to change and correct education that impacts on the lives of people.

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