Analysis of Training Module “Research Skills” under HEC Faculty Development Program in Pakistan

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Abstract

The paper aimed to critically analyze the relevancy and effectiveness of the training contents and process of the module ‘Research Methods and Skills’ developed by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and conducted by the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. To achieve the objectives eight research questions were established. Focus of the questions was to examine the concept of research, research ethics, steps of research process, and tools of data collection. Existing and expected role of participants towards research, their role as a research supervisor, and application of learning research skills as well as usage of various data analysis techniques by them was also aimed to explore in research questions. Sample comprised thirty participants who were selected to participate in the training from various faculties of colleges and universities. The data was collected through pre and post test of the participants. Same questions were asked before and after the training process. The data was analyzed through qualitative analysis using thematic approach. The findings disclosed the participants’ clear concept of research, research ethics, and sources of literature review. They were after completion of training, can use various data analysis techniques. The findings of post-module concepts of the participants reflect an apparent change in their knowledge towards adapting these characteristics as a supervisor. The paper recommended several empirical steps to overcome those problems faced during the session. Time management was required in the session and a need of special workshop on ‘research methodology and skills’ required.

Keywords: Higher Education Commission; Faculty Development Program; Research Skills