

**Investigation of Research Barriers and Challenges in University from the Perspective of Faculty Members of Kermanshah City**

**Nasim Nobahar<sup>1</sup>**

*Ph.D. Student of knowledge and Information science of Payame Noor University*

**Masoomeh Nobahar**

*Faculty Member of Payame Noor University*

**Mohsen Hamidi**

*Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science, Islamic Azad University, Boroujerd Branch, Iran*

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**Abstract:** *This study has been conducted with the aim of surveying the barriers and challenges of research in universities from the perspective of faculty members (Islamic Azad and Payam-e Nour, Razi, Medical Sciences) in Kermanshah done. Questionnaire being used in this research is Barriers and challenges from the perspective of research at universities Retrieved from master thesis, it was based on Likert type, which Barriers divided into 6 categories include of financial barriers, academic, personal, facilities, professional and managerial. The sample size was calculated by using the Cochran formula which the number 253 was obtained. Tests being used for analyzing the achieved data include: One-sample t-test, multivariate analysis of variance MANOVA was used. Achieved result show that, except barriers facilities, other variables were considered serious obstacles in the way of research. Also none of the variables of the study were not significantly different in terms of gender, personal and managerial. In addition, financial barriers are significant differences among teachers. Thus it could be said that There are many ways to improve conditions in the production of knowledge, including: increased use of research results in universities, institutes and departments, an increased attention on ethics in research activities and most importantly increased group research work.*

**Keywords:** *Challenges, Universities, Barriers, Kermanshah, Faculties member.*

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## **Introduction**

Research is defined as the creation or use of knowledge to produce concepts, methods and new knowledge in the new and creative ways. This can lead to an analysis of previous research to create and develop new and innovative results. (UNSW<sup>2</sup>)

In the largest sense, research, including any collection of data, information and facts to improve knowledge. (Worth, 2008<sup>3</sup>). The research is a step by step process for collecting and analyzing information to enhance their understanding of a topic or issue is done; these steps include: 1. making question, 2. Collect information in order to answer this question 3. Present answers to questions. (Creswell, 2008). The research further of being emphasized from most of religions, it was being a goal for all the countries. The main and most fundamental place that they strengthening to start and advance their goals is universities and Research-oriented institutions. As the cradle of science and education, to disseminate research, relevant authorities try to provide necessary resources of their professors. But naturally there are shortages, it is hoped that the authorities will considered these problems. Such problems that some researchers have noted are: Khosh far (2000), Ghourchian (2003), Malek Afzal (2003), Sedaghati far (2008), Karimian (2010), Hosein pour (2011). They belief that, the most fundamental obstacle in the research work, is lack of proper share of funds allocated and distributed of it. The administrative barriers and rigid rules and structural problems in the researches of, Taleghani (1998), Tababn (1999), Khosh far (2000), Farasatkah (2001), Rafi pour (2002), Asgari and Farman bar (2004), Hakim,..(2008), Dadkhah (2008) is considered; also the authorities also mentioned as a barrier in the path of doing research. Professional issues, lack of adequate information and good performance of professors, have special importance in the researches of Beig Zade (2001),

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<sup>1</sup> Email: n.nobahar3@gmail.com (Corresponding Author)

<sup>2</sup> University of New South Wales

<sup>3</sup> Shuttle worth

Rafi pour (2002), Malek Afzal (2003) and Hosein pour (2011). Asgari and Farman bar (2004), Hennink & Stephenson (2004), Brown (2004) and Salari (2006) Lack of research results use in organizations as applied plan, is another reason that researchers have non tendency to carry out research work.

Other barriers to research, which in some studies noted include: lack of education system, which is considered by Ledly & Lovejoy (1993), Ghourchian (2003), Karimian (2010); The impact of political issues on the Research Activities, such as selection of directors and inefficient authorities, as well as the impact of economic issues on the study and lack of revenue research income in the studies of some researchers such as: Khosh far (2000), Sedaghati far (2008), Nick Moradi(2008), Dadkhah (2008), Karimian (2010), Hosein pour (2011) Were so important.

Commission of the European Committees (2003) Quoted from Hosein pour (2011), In a study of barriers to the effective use of research, found it that, lack of developed structure for management and administration of research results, Distrust of many researchers about using of research results and Unfamiliarity of many academics with the economic realities of research, introduced as research obstacles. Generally, several studies have been done around the world that the purpose of theme is to facilitate the process of doing research. In addition, this study aims to identify obstacles and ways to overcome challenges in the path of research.

### Research Method

This study is a descriptive- sectional. Study sample was faculty members of Kermanshah city (Azad, Razi, Payame Nour and Medical), Statistical population was 725 faculty members, the sample size was determined 253 by using Cochran formula. Sampling method was stratified and randomly. Data collection tool, questionnaire "Barriers of research activities at universities," with reliability 3/92, which obstacles divided to 6 categories, including financial barriers, academic, personal and political, facilities, professional, and managerial. Karimian (2010)

After collecting the questionnaires, the data were entered into SPSS software and analyzed using one-sample t-test, multivariate analysis of variance MANOVA. The grading scale options include: agree=4, relatively agree=3, relatively disagree = 2 and disagree is 1. Ratio of total options on the number of options obtained 2.5 that in this investigation all the ratio Calculated from 100; so the average research theoretical 62.5 were assessed.

### The Major Research Questions

1. Is there a significant different between faculty members perspective about barriers in the path of research separately by gender, scientific rank and type of university?
2. Which of the six obstacles from perspective of faculty member, in significant level have most impact on research activities?

### Research Findings

Descriptive results obtained show that a total of 253 members participated in the study are: 5.9 percent women and 94.1 percent men, from the field of study 52.3 percent basic sciences, human science 37.2, and percent medical science 18.6. Percent from the perspective of scientific rank 44.7 percent Assistant, 45.8 percent Associate Professor, 9.5 percent professor. About type of university 30 percent Islamic Azad University, 2.4 percent Payame Nour, 49 percent Razi University and 18.6 percent Medical Science University.

### First Question Analysis

Is there a significant different between faculty members perspective about barriers in the path of research separately by gender, scientific rank and type of university?

- A. Assessment of barriers in research activities according to sexual

**Table (1): T-test for independent samples of study variables (gender)**

Status	Significance level	Standard deviation	Average		
No significant difference	.18	2.46	19.73	238	Financial barriers
		3.72	18.78	15	
No significant difference	.20	1.24	13.40	238	Scientific barriers
		2.23	14.14	15	

No significant difference	.62	1.79	14.06	238	Individual barriers
		1.71	13.84	15	
No significant difference	.17	1.30	24.06	238	Facilities barriers
		1.96	22.90	15	
No significant difference	.83	1.30	12	238	Professional barriers
		1.96	12.35	15	
No significant difference	.35	3.12	31.06	238	Management barriers
		2.55	30.42	15	

According to the statistics above, none of the variables in this study between male and female faculty members of Kermanshah city is not a significant difference; Also their attitude about these obstacles are not quite identical and has no significant difference.

**Table (2): The statistics of the study variables (type of University)**

Status	Significance level	Standard deviation	Average		
significant difference	0.0001	1.33	13.89	Islamic Azad	Financial Barriers
		1.26	24	Payame Nour	
		1.79	20.83	Razi	
		1.71	20.91	Medical Science	
significant difference	0.0001	1.47	13.94	Islamic Azad	Scientific barriers
		2.73	24.33	Payame Nour	
		1.48	13.83	Razi	
		1.46	13.76	Medical Science	
No significant difference	0.77	1.66	13.93	Islamic Azad	Individual barriers
		2.13	13.16	Payame Nour	
		1.74	13.84	Razi	
		1.71	13.82	Medical Science	
significant difference	0.0001	1.52	18	Islamic Azad	Facilities barriers
		1.96	31.33	Payame Nour	
		2.41	24.87	Razi	
		2.47	24.91	Medical Science	
significant difference	0.0001	1.36	11.82	Islamic Azad	Professional barriers
		1.32	20.83	Payame Nour	
		1.35	11.73	Razi	
		1.33	11.85	Medical Science	
No significant difference	0.82	3.007	30.25	Islamic Azad	Management barriers
		1.83	30.83	Payame Nour	
		2.40	30.58	Razi	
		2.44	30.44	Medical Science	

According to Table 2. There is no a significant difference between Individual and administrative barriers, But professional barriers, facilities, finance and science have significant differences; it means that, financial barrier between professors of Islamic Azad University of Kermanshah, more than other universities have been involved with this issue. In addition, in the Payame Nour University, scientific obstacles, Professional and facilities barriers make more problems than other barriers.

**Table (3): F statistics of the study variables (scientific rank)**

Status	Significance level	Standard deviation	Average		
significant difference	0.001	3.86	18.22	Assistant	Financial Barriers
		3.59	18.96	Associate Professor	
		1.55	21.16	Professor	

NO significant difference	0.81	2.25	14.17	Assistant	Scientific barriers
		2.29	14.07	Associate Professor	
		1.59	13.87	Professor	
NO significant difference	0.16	1.81	14.07	Assistant	Individual barriers
		1.63	13.68	Associate Professor	
		1.61	13.58	Professor	
NO significant difference	0.13	4.19	22.69	Assistant	Facilities barriers
		4.06	22.93	Associate Professor	
		2.79	24.50	Professor	
NO significant difference	0.81	1.97	12.06	Assistant	Professional barriers
		1.98	11.98	Associate Professor	
		1.38	1.79	Professor	
NO significant difference	0.17	2.48	30.63	Assistant	Management barriers
		2.71	30.16	Associate Professor	
		2.23	31.08	Professor	

According to up table, except of financial barriers, others have no significant different between faculty members of Kermanshah universities; in addition except of facilities and management barriers, other obstacles have lower average rather than others obstacles averages.

### Second Question Analysis

Which of the six barriers, have impressive effect on the research activities from the perspective of faculty?

**Table: (4): T-test for independent samples of study variables**

result	Level of effective	Degrees of freedom	Amount of T	Difference average	Standard deviation	Average population	Average sample	
significant difference	0.0001	252	5.82	1.34	3.66	17.5	18.84	Financial barriers
significant difference	0.0001	252	24.60	-3.39	2.19	17.5	14.10	Scientific barriers
significant difference	0.0001	252	33.71	-3.64	1.72	17.5	13.85	Individual
significant difference	0.06	252	1.85	0.47	4.04	22.5	22.97	Facilities barriers
significant difference	0.0001	252	24.76	-3	1.92	15	12	Professional barriers
significant difference	0.0001	252	33.56	5.46	2.58	25	30.46	Management barriers

According to last page table, it can be concluded that, all variables in this study, except facilities barriers considered as most important problems in the path of research from the perspective of faculty members of Kermanshah.

### Conclusions

Research can be one of the engines of progress in the country and particular in universities, if it fails, it means that there is a serious weakness within the organization; therefore, in order to strengthen and increase the engine's acceleration, faculty and expert researchers in this field is required; That it needs, increase motivation, attention to defects and shortcomings, and fix them. In this Research, in Somehow all barriers including financial, professional, facilities, academic, professional, personal, organizational and management, as the most important challenges in the research activities of faculties at the Universities were considered. As the first question indicated, data obtained show that mismanagement as one of the main obstacles in the path of research have greatest impact on faculty members' research activities. As the reasons of this weakness, can be named, constant changing of managers and the gaps between researchers, decision-makers and implementers.

A high score in this part can be interpreted in this way, which management style in an organization is very important; because if it is assumed that all facilities be provided for research activities; but there were no comprehensive management to organize them, facilities never will not be helpful.

Some of barriers that faculties mentioned as managerial problems include of: no use of researches result in the promotion of society problems, use of research budgets on the unnecessary plans, lack of managements support from researchers and lack of enough resources and accessibility to them for faculties and Overcome personal opinions and personal interests in the evaluation, approval and evaluation of projects and papers.

Arab mazar (2008) Lack of trust and belief of directors to the research, unrelated field of study and professional experience of research unit directors, long process of determining priorities, Reviews and approval of proposals and assessment former plans, lack of research and development collaboration with administrative units, in use of project results and lack of inform systems and access to data and information systems and research studies conducted, these as the managerial weaknesses of the of research noted.

Facilities and financial constraints, after management problems are common in all three variables (gender, academic level and type of university) as the most important problems in conducting research activities have been selected. Latifi (2012) cited to the lack of adequate equipment for applying the results of research as one of the fundamental obstacles in the path of research facilities. Hosein Pour (2011), The lack of a strong relationship, serious and efficient with the world's universities and international societies and organizations, lack of funding and research funding participation, exclusive role of government in providing funds for research, the low income derived from research activities compared to other economic activities, lack of timely allocation of research funds, tendency of large firms in the provinces to transfer their research plans to famous universities, no relation between universities and industries and unsuccessful relation between office of Industrial Relation and universities, finally, the financial problems of teachers and researchers, as some of the main research stagnation or slow growth in the university is named. Farmanbar & Asgari (2008) believed that wages of faculties' research activities are not paid properly or the payment process is too long.

This study in the individual barriers, lack of interest to group activities, lack of research ethics and scientific bailment, Lack of sensitivity to society's problems and problem finding morale, was confirmed by the faculties; and in the professional barriers: existence of many barriers to participation in conferences abroad, due to administrative and routine work at universities professors do not have enough time to research activities, was considered. In the scientific barriers, lack of enough familiarity of faculties, with updated method of articles searching on the web, faculties' significant weakness in foreign languages for the use of Latin sources, finally, faculties' lack of enough dominance in essay writing, making Poster... these have created many problems for them.

According to the results in Table 1-4, In general, from the six general barrier, managerial and organizational barriers accounted the highest score and their assessment indicated poor management as the main obstacle. Weaknesses of management from the perspective of faculties included of: lack of proper encounter of authorities with researchers and project owners, follow up problems in publishing articles in the journals, inefficient authorities, Publication bias, lack of implementation of research results, no executive the research result, overcoming relationships on standards in the article publishing.

## **Suggestions**

Some of the key recommendations that will be presented in this way the authorities are:

1. Increase the academic links with other countries
2. Increase collaboration with researchers at the University authorities
3. Increased attention to talented students and researchers
4. Increase funding for research and logical distribution
5. Increase equipment and facilities needed at the Universities (books, computers, hardware, Lab)
6. Increased communication between universities and industries
7. Reduce the administrative bureaucracy and simplify the path of research publications
8. serious decisions in the implementation of research results
9. monitoring of research projects
10. Training required courses for faculties
11. Use of professional managers in the field of research

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