PURPOSE OF THE UMMAH OF MUHAMMADﷺ AND ITS PARAMETERS—A REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF HOLY QUR'AN

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ABSTRACT

'Amr bil Ma'roof wa Nahi 'Anil Munkar' bidding fair-deeds and forbidding unfair-deeds was the responsibility and mission of all the Ambya﷩ [i.e., the Prophets] and Rusul﷩ [i.e., the Messengers], who came in every human populated part of the world. After an accomplishment of the lineage of Prophetic series, from Adam﷩ to Muhammadﷺ, this responsibility transmitted to the Ummah of Muhammadﷺ. Consequently, the aim and objective of the Ummah of Muhammadﷺ was declared the same as it was of the Ambya﷩ and Rusul﷩.

Pattern of the Holy Qur'an is an ample testimony to this theme. The Holy Qur'an explores preponderantly those aspects of the Past Prophets﷩ life that have concerns with Da'wah such as: their ways of preaching, their ardent desire for the Hidayah [true guidance] of their people, their patience, as well as apathetic and offensive attitudes of their nation against their sympathetic and sincere admonitions; as compare to their other facets of life such as their devotion in worship and other religious observances. This theme itself speaks that the Holy Qur'an demands from the Ummah of Muhammadﷺ something special that has not been demanded from the past religious nations of the world.

This Article is an attempt to cast light on the purpose of the Ummah of Muhammadﷺ and to describe its parameters in the context of Qur'anic Verses and Islamic Teachings, and to persuade the Ummah to retreat to their true purpose of life.

ARTICLE

It is affirmed by the Holy Qur'an and Ahadith that this Ummah is created for and sent to this world particularly for the purpose of executing the task of Da'wah and Tabligh [i.e. inviting people towards Allah﷾ and propagating His Message to His servants] beside performing various other modes of worships that used to be in practice of past nations with slight difference.

Due to this fact, if one goes through the *Sirat* [life and achievement] of Prophet Muhammadﷺ, the last and final Prophet and Messenger of Allah﷾, he comes to know that 'the training pattern of Ummah of Muhammadﷺ is noticeably different from the past nations' i.e., detail instructions regarding work of Da'wah has been given to this Ummah prior to the detail commandments concerning worship and other obligations of Deen. In other words, it would not be wrong to say that purpose and training pattern of the Ummah of Muhammad is same as the purpose and training of Ambya'﷩ and Rusul﷩.

The Holy Quran beautifully express the purpose and parameters of Ummah of Muhammadﷺ. It says that Allah﷾ is ربّ الناس[1] [i.e. Lord and Cherisher of all mankind], and His Book, the Holy Qur'an is هدى للناس[2] [i.e. the guide to the all mankind], and His last Prophet Muhammadﷺ is كافة للناس[3] [i.e. sent to towards entire mankind], in a same pattern, the Ummah of Muhammadﷺ is أخرجت للناس[4] [i.e. brought out for the benefit of entire mankind].

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improve the quality of teaching at private sector universities. Monitoring and evaluation should be ensured with tight measures.

With special reference to social sciences in private universities, HEC should also allocate funds for holding workshops and conferences. Private sector universities' teachers are not yet granted funds and scholarships for higher studies in Pakistan and abroad. HEC can also announce some financial incentives for those who present papers in world class universities conferences and publish papers in international journals. In addition to that HEC should also organize international conference annually on social science in which leading social scientist may be invited from all over the world. The HEC supported committee of development of Social Sciences and Humanities have already made some contributions in this regard, but more efforts are needed to gear up the drive of quality research in the disciplines of social science at public and private universities in Pakistan.

Private universities are ready to play their role in promoting social science in Pakistan. Subjects like economics, mass communication, political science, public policy, sociology, psychology, entrepreneurship and NGO management are of great importance for the national economy and they also have a good job market. But what is needed is the patronage of the HEC in promoting private universities by building their images among the important stakeholders through collaborative actions and events.

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- considerable number of teachers is involved in administrative work like tabulations, transcripts making, conducting colleges' exams and inspections of affiliated colleges
- Cases of favoritism and nepotism in hiring process are frequently occurred.
- Teaching has become more money oriented rather than research oriented.
- Doctoral researches are dangerously inclined toward compilation instead of original findings (with some exceptions).
- Private sector's universities do not seem prepare to develop a strong research base. Their main concern is to enrolled maximum number of students, teach them and award them degree after completion of the courses.
- Private sector universities hiring process is not based on equal opportunity.

Akbar Zaidi rightly pointed out lack of collaborative research among teachers and institutions. He mentions two interesting examples of limited institutional collaborations. Economics Department at Quid-E-Azam University in Islamabad is next to the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and Economics Department in Karachi University is short walk away from Applied Economics Research Centre. Such a close distances did not even facilitate collaborations between them. Instead, these departments and research institutions develop fraction between themselves. He further points out that the senior faculty seldom encourage junior faculty to come along with them[16].

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION (HEC) ROLE IN PROMOTING SOCIAL SCIENCES

Higher Education Commission in Pakistan is playing an important role since its inception and promotes a competitive research-based culture in the public sector universities in Pakistan which previously plunged into an academic inertia. HEC's regulations for private sector universities brought a visible change in terms on accreditation on the basis of certain conditionalities.

In its early years, HEC ignored the social science disciplines and put more focus on science and engineering. With persistent efforts of leading social scientists and popular voice from the public sector universities, HEC has now given considerable attention to social sciences. The appointment of Dr. Eshrat Hussain was an important step towards the promotion of social science in Pakistan. As an eminent social scientist and esteemed economist of international recognition, Dr. Hussain, with profound vision of social science, is also aware of its dismal state in our public and private sector universities.

HEC's role is pivotal in standardizing private universities. Policy intervention is strongly suggested in all aspects of Universities HR policies except the financial matters (salary and tuition fee). For example instead of the wish of the owners or any other individual from top management, faculty hiring in private universities should be in accordance to the public sector criterion. That is for the hiring of lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor in the private sector, HEC, through its nominee, should be the part of selection board and its process to ensure the eligibility criteria set by the HEC. Performance-based salary criterion should also be introduced in private sector universities. Here the performance of faculty means, quality teaching, research publications, presenting papers in conference, book/manual writing or funded research projects.

Chairman HEC, Dr. Atta ur Rehman's letter addressed to vice chancellors of private universities regarding English Language Proficiency is another important step to

quantitative[13]. Only two percent articles attempted to adopt proper research methods while ninety eight percent was total narration. Applying inductive and deductive logics while using others' writing are hardly seen in the randomly selected articles. Logical persuasion and cohesion in research writing are seriously lacking and it is because of the language problem.

Research means to find something new or amend, modify, reject or redefine existing theories and idea. And for this, effective and clear expressions, written or oral, are required[14]. Most of the people find writing more difficult then speaking and it goes without saying that written words have more value than spoken.

Research writing is an art and writing a research in second language is even a greater task which requires the medium of flawless writing to express complex social phenomena clearly. There should be a flow in writing just like a flow of thoughts. The words are like bricks when placed together properly, they make a proper structure and a strong base for constructing a building of well organized ideas. Well knitted structure of writing makes it easier for the reader to understand the purpose and contents of writing.

English, as a second language, has always been found a difficult language to write in. University teachers do have this fear of writing, which was clearly evident in the published papers. As not being a native speaker of this language, faculty members find it a barrier in communicating the knowledge they have, because most of them lack the ability to express.

In randomly selected articles from two journals, we find a number of problematic areas in writing that include: Cohesion, diction, verbosity, stylistic problems and paragraphic construction in addition to aforementioned methodological problems.

Numbers of researches' titles do not describe the research succinctly. Robert Day defines a good title as the fewest possible words that adequately describe the contents of the paper[15]. Well phrased titles create curiosity in the mind of a reader and give a clear picture of the main idea of research.

Another flaw is the verbosity. In writing, the clarity comes with the logical use of words. Wordiness creates obscurities. Writing should have its flow but this flow should not be such that reader finds himself in the middle of nowhere and loses interest. Superfluous and unnecessary words make writings redundant. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he/she avoids all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but a piece of writing should be cohesive that makes the picture clear and multi-dimensional.

CONCLUSION
Universities are supposed to be the intellectual pumping stations that pump intellectual ideas into various facets of our national life. However situation is quit opposite in Pakistan. What is happening in our universities can be briefly summarized as follows:
- Faculty members are only interested in publications that could make them eligible for next promotion.

chairmen. Information on research publication are cross examined by the chairmen, concerned teachers and confirmed by checking the journal in which it was published. Some respondents were not willing to provide personal information by saying that it has nothing to do with the research performance.

Institutional data were easily collected through the social science departments of Peshawar University. While private sector universities' data, that is, total number of regular teachers, salary, experience, researches, courses, etc were not easily accessible. Universities' personnel are strictly instructed to conceal information. During data collection process from private universities, we were suspiciously interrogated by universities' personnel. We use personal contact to acquire data from private sector universities.

The published information on the universities' prospectus is found exaggerated. For example universities who have more than one campus out side NWFP, they published list of faculty that does not exist at Peshawar Campus. Visiting faculty is also included in the permanent list. We cross checked these information through personal interviews from faculty members and students. It is pertinent to mention here that the research questionnaire include information that is required by the Higher Education Commission.

The second focus of the research is on the language of research. We have selected published researches from Social Science Journal, University of Peshawar and Qurtuba University's quarterly research journal 'The Dialogue'. We randomly select articles from these journals and examined them from perspective of research methodology and language.

PROBLEMS IN APPLYING PROPER METHODOLOGY

Application of proper methodology is one of the weakest areas of social science research in Pakistan[11]. What is theory? When should we use hypothesis? How should we test hypothesis? How can we quantify qualitative statements? And how can we explain empirical results in plain English? Etc, these questions are not yet cleared in researchers' mind. This statement is based on our study of various articles published during 2004-2006 in Social Science journal of Peshawar University. One reason is that courses of quantitative and qualitative data analysis and subjects like statistics, mathematics, research methodology, and quantitative data analysis are not yet included in social science curricula. In departments of social science, Arts and humanities faculties these courses are not offered at graduate level that seriously affect the quality of research of our students and teachers. Hashmi's also pointed out that the interdisciplinary orientation is drastically lacking in the growth of social science in Pakistan[12]. This lacking is clearly manifested in the research papers written by university teachers in Pakistan which are usually single dimensional. And hence students are no exception. Their term papers are mostly downloaded through net and devoid of basic research techniques. Number of respondents indicates that their quantitative skills are not up to the mark. Their supervisory role, therefore, restricted to subjective and descriptive narration of research themes. We confirmed this 'cut & past' trend by studying students' writing assignments that clearly appeared as bundle of patchwork because of 'cut and past' habits.

Selecting a researchable issue, evaluate its originality and contribution to knowledge, framing of the research question(s), constructing hypothesis, selecting methodological approaches, constructing research instrument, prepare research design and using analytical tools are essential steps in social science research whether it is qualitative or

of students does not hold institution as university and teaching alone does not lead to innovative expansion of universities.

Primary data are collected on research instrument that is constructed to measure the relationship between dependent and independent variables. In this research two dependent variables and six independent variables are developed:

Dependent variables:

1. Quantity of research, that is, number of publications
2. Quality of Research that is ranking of the journal, application of research methodology, citation, writing of research

Independent Variables:

1. Number of years in service
2. Government scale (18, 19, 20, 21)
3. Teaching load
4. Administrative responsibility
5. Number of course on researches methodology & writing attended
6. Number of training Programs on research methodology & writing attended

Our research methodology suggest normative and critical social science approaches to examine the current state of social science and forecast universities' future as viable institutes of higher studies.

Research methodology issues and research writing skills' problems are examined through the published work of teachers during the years 2000- 2006. Research writing, the second aspect of this research, is the published work with focus on common problems of plagiarism, citation, qualitative argumentation, logic and interpretation of qualitative data.

RESEARCH DESIGN
The context of the research is important in this case. We gather specific information that helps us building arguments around our variables and assumptions. The conceptualization and operationalization for this research happen simultaneously during the data collection process[9]. Grounded theory offers an appropriate framework to develop inductively derived theory about the issue[10].

The respondents of this research study are resided in Peshawar. Peshawar is a small city where people and specially academia are socially well-connected. We adopted direct and indirect strategies to get the data. During the process we confronted with problems in obtaining data from private sector universities. In Peshawar, private sector universities do not disclose the basic information which is supposed to be public. For example on questions 'how many regular teachers on payroll?' None of the private sector universities disclosed this information on phone and even on personal visits. So we tried to contact teachers, directly through social contact and attempted to get information through informal discussion.

In public sector universities, we accessed the data easily through direct and indirect contact. We collected the data from the departments' offices and confirmed it from the