REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP

ON

“EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PhD. AND
POST DOCTORATE IN FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES”

3- Days Workshop
13th-15th Dec, 2006

Organized
by
Department of Zoology
SBK Women’s University, Quetta

In collaboration with
Department of Learning Innovation
Higher Education Commission, Pakistan
SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP

Topic of the workshop:
“Exploring New Opportunities for Ph.D. and Post Doctorate in Foreign countries”

Organized by:
Department of Zoology, SBK Women’s University, Quetta

Financed by:
Learning Innovation Division, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan.

Coordinators:
1. Ms Naheed Sajjad
2. Prof. Jamila Qazi
   Registrar SBK Women’s University, Quetta
3. Mr. Fida Hussain
   Director, Learning Innovation Division, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Objective of the workshop:
To familiarize the faculty members of SBK Women’s University, Quetta with the existing opportunities available within the country or in foreign universities to enhance their learning and research capabilities along with their professional development in order to provide not only the quality education to the students but also to guide them towards the path of creation of knowledge through research related to real world phenomenon.

Resource Person:
Dr. Syed Nisar Hussain Hamdani
Associate Professor, UAJK
Official resource person for research programmes, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

Venue:
Lab 1, Department of Computer Science,
SBK Women’s University,
Quetta.

Participants:
Faculty members of various departments of SBK Women’s University, Quetta

Workshop timings:
9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Daily)
DETAILS OF WORKSHOP

Opening Ceremony

On 13th Dec, 2006 the workshop began with the recitation of the Verses from The Holy Quran by Miss Samina Gul at 10:00 am. The Honorable Vice Chancellor, SBK Women’s University, Quetta Dr. Shahida Jaffery was the chief guest of the ceremony. The anchor person of the opening ceremony Ms. Naheed Sajjad, Lecturer, Department of Zoology very warmly welcomed the honorable chief guest, distinguished scholar belonging to Higher Education Commission, Pakistan and the participants of the 3-days workshop under the title of “Exploring opportunities for Ph. D. and Post Doctorate in Foreign Universities”. She acknowledged and admired the cooperation of workshop coordinators, Mr. Fida Hussain, Director Learning Innovation, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and Prof. Jamila Qazi, Registrar SBKWU for successful arrangement of the workshop and thanked them on behalf of Department of Zoology, SBK Women’s University.

After a brief introduction of the objective of workshop, Dr. Syed Nisar Hamdani, the resource person, briefly discussed the theme of the workshop and threw light upon the importance of research work and well designed research proposal for winning the scholarship and other opportunities abroad. He also hoped that by the end of the workshop, participants would be able to achieve the objectives set for this area of faculty development of Women’s university, Quetta.

Director Learning Innovation Department, HEC, Mr. Fida Hussain discussed the role of Higher Education Commission in promoting research facilities and development and training of Faculty of various universities specially in Balochistan.

The Vice Chancellor, SBK Women’s University Dr. Shahida Jaffary thanked the resource person Dr. Syed Nisar Hussain Hamdani and Mr. Fida Hussain for
conducting this workshop at SBK Women’s University Quetta and hoped that such workshops and seminars would be arranged on regular basis according to the need of the faculty of university and students to promote the culture of creation of knowledge at the higher education level.

The formal session commenced in Department of Computer Science with the discussion on the key factors that lead to success in acceptance of a research proposal by Dr. Syed Nisar Hussain Hamdani. He made it clear to the participants that there are increasing numbers of abundant, alternative, manageable and sure higher education opportunities available at national and global level. The only need is to identify them with the help of electronic and print media according to the life objective of a person.

He broadened the vision of the participants by emphasizing on the importance of “Life goal” which determined success. He adopted inquiry approach and preferred participant’s involvement and welcomed their views on their life goals.

It was discussed that doing research for the benefit of Islam, taking guidance from The Holy Quran and Hadees to please Allah Almighty and to serve humanity at the same time, would give one full strength and success. Allah Almighty would himself guide. Along with the full faith on Allah Almighty, past achievement and number of publication would also contribute to one’s success in winning the opportunities for higher studies.

It was made clear to the participants that articles published in international or HEC recognized journals or journals with high impact factor would enhance the chances of acceptance of proposal abroad. Theme of research topic and clarity of the context was also significant because it would tell the feasibility of the project.

Coming towards the types of research for the sake of preparation of successful research proposal, formal research and action research were compared. Different options and alternatives for higher education in foreign countries were provided like one must try to get admission
and apply for scholarship or for assistanceship or after getting admission, apply for the project funding but after considering the time and monetary constraints of each opportunity. He emphasized on adoption of multidisciplinary approach while preparing a research proposal as it would increase the chances of its approval to a greater extent.

At the end of first day’s sessions, participants discussed various problems regarding research work and the biggest among them was the availability of the supervisors, specially in Balochistan, according to one’s area of research interest and the cooperation from their side as it was found that most of the supervisor were not interested in guiding the researcher to the required extent which always caused a problem in making a successful research proposal.

On the whole, at the end of first day’s proceedings, participants were quite satisfied with the information provided to them and showed keen interest in nurturing their capabilities for research work if such kind of guidance were available to them on a continual basis. They appreciated the intellect of the resource person Dr. Syed Nisar Hussain Hamdani and liked his methodology for transferring knowledge through simplified and relevant examples in various disciplines. They also acknowledge his cooperative behavior towards every one who was ready to seek knowledge.

2nd Day of Workshop

The Second day of 3 days workshop began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran by Ms. Shazia Bano lecturer Economics Department at 9:30 am. Ms. Rahila Manzoor lecturer in Mathematics presented the report of 1st day proceeding then in order to identify the area in need of improvement the respectable resource person for the workshop Dr. Syed Nisar Hussain Hamdani took the feed back on first day’s proceedings and activities from every participants. Some participants suggested that it should be more practical to clarify the research work process yet on the whole the responses were pretty positive and almost all the participants showed keen interest to start their research work as soon as possible especially under divine frame work while adopting multidisciplinary approach. Observing the level of their interest in research work, Director learning innovation, Higher
Education Commission, Mr. Fida Hussain announced the arrangement of two weeks workshop on basic research methodology in summer 2007 at SBK Women's University Quetta under the supervision of renowned scholars. All the participants commended his decision and said thank to him for his untiring efforts for the faculty development process. In order to evaluate the quality of workshop participants were asked to fill up an evaluation form with their true and unbiased responses.

Then Dr. Syed Nisar Hussain Hamdani started the formal learning session with the recitation and explanation of a verse from The Holy Quran to clarify the divine framework for research. Moving ahead, he precisely explained the process of preparing a research proposal and its main components like title, introduction, review of literature, conceptual background, methodology, result conclusion and policy recommendations. Participants were given the relevant examples of various areas of study to clarify the concept of title and introduction part of the research proposal. They came to know about the importance and need for review of literature and were told that there are 4 rules for strong and acceptable review of literature and reference.

1. To get and review article from journal which is the strongest reference
2. To get and review authenticate books like The Holy Quran, and classical resources.
3. Reports
4. Lectures, seminars, conferences, experts views etc.

They practiced the method of exploration of different types of material as net through the instructions of resources person who also told that how the references were written in research proposal from various resources. During the 1 hour prayer and lunch break from 2-3 O’clock; participants were given the task of discussion on questionnaire making and question to be included in it according to their own area of interest.

In after lunch session, participants openly discussed the process of questionnaire development with Dr. Nisar after understanding the various
types of questions to be included in it to get the maximum information from the respondent without hurting him or her in any respect.

The participants have been given the task to present their research proposal on last day of workshop so in order to facilitate them, a topic of common internal under the title of

“Effect of Faith on Leisure Choices among Women Faculty
Members of SBK Women’s University in Application of Divine
Economics Framework 2003”

Every one contributed to the maximum to contribute in making a questionnaire and during this round-table conference, many pitfalls on the part of researchers were clarified to avoid biased ness in asking questions and dealing with sensitive issues to be explored.

The day ended with finalization of questionnaire and a reminder from the resource person that every participant had to present her research proposal on the last day of workshop.

3<sup>rd</sup> day of workshop

Day began with the recitation of The Holy Quran recited by Ms. Samina Gul, Information Officer, SBKWU. Proceedings report was presented by Ms. Shazia Bano, lecturer in Economics to review the 2<sup>rd</sup> day’s activities and to identify any area which needed any kind of improvement in the workshop. Then participants shared their view in the light of previous day report. Last day of workshop was full of activities and new information which would be proved quite helpful for the faculty in order to make a successful research proposal.

Linking up with the 2<sup>nd</sup> day’s proceedings and discussions, Dr. Hamdani started session with discussion on development of questionnaire. He explained how we design questionnaire and analyze data to get meaningful results. As an exercise, questionnaires (prepared by participants themselves) were distributed among participants to get answers of questions. While filling up the questionnaire, they came across a lot of problems through which Dr. Hamdani explained that one had to be very
much careful while developing the questions keeping in mind the educational, social and cultural background of the respondents to acquire the reliable information regarding the problem. This exercise proved to be extremely helpful for the participants belonging to social sciences. Resource person also mentioned that hypothesis that we formulate for our research problem, should be specific; be it multidisciplinary or else.

During the second session of the last day of workshop, the resource person mentioned the causes of the failure to find out the opportunities for research work. According to him, the common shortfalls on the part of any Ph.D. candidate were

- Undue hopelessness
- Lethargy
- Supervisory gap
- Little use of electronic resources

The candidate also did not consider the international timeliness which ultimately leads them towards failure.

He made it crystal clear that any one interested in research work could explore the research grants and fellowships within country or abroad through HEC online resources or others. The only need is the commitment and full commitment with one’s life objective. He demonstrated the search process of call papers and research grants on internet and provided examples of websites for research methodologies and grants.

It was described that for winning a foreign scholarship, one should take admission in any foreign university and then should apply for scholarship, assistance ship or project funding. During this process, no one should be disappointed that he/she was unable to achieve these. If the approach is multidisciplinary and innovative then the chances of success would increase.

In the third and last session of the day, Dr. Hamdani, very briefly, talk about the process of project budgeting and the importance of MS Excel in preparing the project budget. He advised the participants to hold excellent command in MS Office and other statistical software like SPSS etc. to get rid of problems arouse from lack of command on latest technology during the development research proposal.
At the beginning of after lunch session of third day, resource person Dr. Syed Nisar Hussain Hamdani gave some useful tips to have a clear and effective communication with the research supervisor and advised not to discuss anything without home work with the supervisor as he/she would be interested in your work and not in your stories or excuses. After that, some of the participants presented their research proposals. Honorable Vice Chancellor SBKWU, Dr. Shahida Jaffari and the resource person Dr. Syed Nisar Hussain Hamdani evaluated their research proposal and provided them the guidelines to prepare a strong and persuasive research proposal. They appreciated the efforts of participants and hoped that their guidelines would be proved beneficial in future.

The most important event of the last day of workshop was the formation of HEC forum. The faculty members and the students of SBK Women University would be the members of this forum and they would be discussing the research topics with each other and arranging the seminars to discuss the new areas of research other than conventional fields. Miss Shabana Akhter, lecturer in Pak Studies was selected as the chief coordinator, Miss Rabia, Lecturer in Chemistry as secretary and Miss Samina Gul, Information officer SBKWU was selected as finance secretary for the forum.

Closing Ceremony
At the end of successful 3 day workshop, closing ceremony was held on the cold but beautiful evening of 15th Dec, 2006 in department of computer Science, SBK women’s University, Quetta. Respected Vice Chancellor SBKWU Dr. Shahida Jafferji presided over the ceremony. Ms. Naheed Sajjad, Lecturer in Zoology, welcomed the chief guests and showed gratitude for her presence and guidance through out the whole workshop. She commended the efforts of Mr. Fida Hussain Director leaning Innovation, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad, Prof. Jamila Qazi, registrar SBKWU, Madam Shahina Rafique, Head of Zoology Department, Department
of Computer Science, participants and others for making the workshop a big success.

One of the participants, Ms. Shazia Bano, lecturer Department of Economics, shared her views about the workshop. With a lot of thanks to the organizer, she also hoped that such type of workshops would be arranged in future as well.

While addressing at the closing ceremony, HEC resource person, Dr. Syed Nisar Hussain Hamdani appreciated all the participants for their hard work and showing their interest in learning. He admired the untiring and fruitful efforts of the respected Vice Chancellor in capacity building of the faculty of SBK Women’s University. He also thanked the organizers of the workshop for their hospitality and timely arrangements of other facilities and congratulated them on its successful organization. In her address, the honorable Vice chancellor Dr. Shahida Jaffer commended the efforts of Zoology Department and the organizers of the workshop. She especially thanked and congratulated the Resource person and HEC for their involvement.

At the end, certificates were distributed among the participants and photographs were taken.