

FACTORS AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY CAMPUS KOTLI

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Abstract

This study is designed to assess the impact of various factors affecting the performance of students studying at University College of Administrative sciences kotli (UAJ&K). A total sample of 200 students was taken in this study. Data were collected through a five point likert scale questionnaire and responses (178) were subjected to descriptive statistics through SPSS.version.20. The independent variables used in this study were curriculum/ course material, role of faculty members and support services while the dependent variable of this study was student's performance. The results showed the significant impact of faculty on the performance of students as it remained highest while the impact of course material ranked second and impact of support resources or facilitates ranked third in relation with the performance of the students. The role of faculty had a significant impact on students' performance. However University campus need to facilitate it students to get much better performance.

Keywords: Descriptive Statistics, Course material, Faculty Member, Student performance, Curriculum, support Services

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Introduction

Development of any nation greatly depends on its youth and a literate youth is the greatest blessing for the country. It is evident from the history that students bring revolutions by their thought provoking ideas and marvelous performance. Compatibility of any student is estimated by his performance. According to the Norhidayah (2009) university students are responsible for social and economic development of any country. Therefore, performance of students is not only a matter of concern for intuitional management and educationists but also for corporations in the labor markets.

There are many factors which affect the performance of the students which may include faculty member's compatibility, subject matter/Contents or curriculum and facilities or support resources within institution etc. Sometimes students are not provided information about course objectives, degree requirement, books and grade distribution since the start of their semester, which impede their performance. Unfair performance evaluation can also hinder the student's performance. Teaching methodology and subject understanding by the teachers does have an impact on student's performance. Encouragement and appreciation from faculty side to the students also affects student's performance. Facilities/Support services like equipment, libraries, and lecture rooms, parking slots, washrooms, auditoriums/conference halls and other facilities do have an impact on student's motivation for performing in positive way. Performance of the students is an issue of immense importance, therefore numerous researchers tried to give due coverage by conducting research on this particular topic in various parts of the world. Womble (2003) reported that interpersonal and social skills, conflict resolution or problem solving strategies, leadership skills, team management, coordination and cooperative attitudes are very important in practical environment. Students who are blessed with these skills are quite capable of doing work efficiently and effectively which enhance their performance. Students who are habitual of working hard, who are good in notes taking and who listen with full attention perform well than those who don't possess such abilities. Competency and better performance of any student is related with his ability of managing his study work load and also how well he is managing study material in accordance with curriculum Kleijn et al., (1994). Interesting subject material draw the attention of students and keep them engaged for thinking and raising questions. Student understanding with basic concepts of contents and practicality of subject matter is another aspect which enables the students to performance in one way or other.

Instructor's grip and command over the contents and methods of delivering these contents affect the performance of students because this is a general belief that teachers shape the attitudes of the students by their attitude and styles, so hence faculty side is an important aspect of student's performance. Prevalence of facilities within institutions motivates the students for better performance. According to Ebrahimitouri, & Mehri (2011) education institutions from all over the world have given huge importance to those factors which are affecting student's performance. Researchers try to focus this genuine issue and their finding revealed that previous schooling, parenting style and education, house hold income and self motivating factors are the significant indicators of student's performance. Performance of the students not only affect their career and life but it also affect their families, societies and the whole nation because better performing students are considered successful people and successful people live successful family life, bring positivity in community and ultimately pave the path of success for entire nation.

Problem Statement

Educational institutions are facing the problem of poor performance of their students which is alarming situation for not only for these institutions but also for parents and ultimately for whole nation. In this research study researcher tried to assess the impact of some important factors which affect the performance of the students

Objectives of the Study

- 1) To examine the impact of Course material /contents on the performance of the Students.
- 2) To assess the role of faculty on student's performance.
- 3) To examine the impact of Support sources on the performance of the students.

Significance of the study

This study is of an immense importance because student's performance is used as an indicator of success or failure not only for themselves but also for the concerned institutions. This study will be a very good addition in the existing research and this study will be proved helpful for the educationists and policy makers for redefining the policies and procedures for gaining better performance from the students. Being a faculty member/lecture in the same university campus, researcher wants to know about the factors which affect student's performance and how it can be improved.

Literature Review

Performance of students has been focused by numerous researchers from all over the world. Adem (2005) found that there are many factors that affect the performance of the students, He further argued that number of students withdraw or dismissed even before the completion of their studies in Ethiopia. Performance of students is an important and crucial issue which captured the attentions of academicians, educationists, civil society and other stakeholders. Schneider (2002) reported that the decisions about the facilities and sources greatly affect performance of teachers and students who use these facilities. Those institutions which are blessed with the resources and facilities can help to produce sustainable and positive academic outcomes. Support resources like hostel accommodation, parking facilities, photocopier shops, well equipped computer labs, well stocked libraries and other facilities have an impact on the motivational level of students which ultimately affect their performance. Aboma (2009) noted that failure in higher education often brought negative and deteriorating consequences not only for the students but also for their families and for the institutions as well. Such failure might cause dissatisfaction among the students which leads towards psychological and social problems such as worse college experience, destruction of life plans, and become unemployed or lower level employee. These are some of the negative consequences of lack of success in higher education which seemed very costly and damaging for all stakeholders. Lay & Schouwenburg (1993) identified that excessive course work, detailed and comprehensive information covered in curriculum make the effective utilization of strategies for gaining academic success.

According to Ebrahimitouri, & Mehri (2011) prevalence of resource and facilities in any organizations/institution affects the learning among the students. Physical environment, spatial layout, and some other factors like light, heat, cold and quality of air, ventilation affect the abilities of students and teachers. Organizational construction design, good light, peaceful and comfortable environment obviously affect the learning in a productive and positive manner. Organizations need adequate funds for a good attractive design and quality construction and maintenance. Besides this role of faculty members and academic counseling do have a significant impact on the achievements of the students. Penson (2010) recommended that universities must concentrate hard on updating and improving teaching skills by adapting new teaching methodologies, teaching devices and aids, updated curriculum, good communication

skills and academic counseling for the students. Al-Jewair et al (2010) added that these of teaching aids and information technology has positive results on the performance of students. Another factor is associated with students' academic performance is test competence, which reflects how students cope with the amount of study material for examinations. Erdem et al (2007) identified there are many factors which affect student's performance such as gender, house hold income, livingplace, social standing and environment, family back ground, previous schooling and academic background and amount of time spend for study. All these factors are the determinants of student's performance. Urien (2003) identified that various factors such as department or study discipline, family back ground affect the performance of the students. Pascarella and Terenzini (2005) found that interaction between faculty and students have a positive impact on performance and achievements of both constituencies. Curriculum or syllabus related factors are also important determinants of student's performance. (Weglinsky, 2000). According to Karemera (2003) performance of students is significantly correlated or concerned with their level of satisfaction with services they received and academic environment prevails in an institution. Reynolds and Weigand (2010) explored the relationship between psychological attitudes, academic attitude and academic achievements among the students in a university at United States. Nonis & Wright (2003) suggested that universities need to improve the performances achievement standards of their students in order to meet the market competition and pressure imposed by accreditation councils. Yalew (2003) found that poor academic performance and academic dismissal were quite high among the students of first year at university. Harb (2007) reported that indicators or determinants of students' performance were a highly debated issue among educationists, academicians and policy makers.

Hijazi & Naqvi (2006) discussed the factors which affect the performance of the students included their attitude towards attendance in classes, time allocation for studies, parenting style and behavior, house hold income, mother's age, and mother's education. Topping (1994) identified that high rate of absenteeism or irregularity in attending the classes decreases the student's grip over contents which ultimately results in poor performance. Aamir.S & M.S.S (2012) noticed that student's performance may be affected by a large number of factors such as social and economic background, family size and structure, family environment and student's personal attitude towards study. Besides this stress level in family and also in educational

institutions, teaching methodologies, previous academic background, regularity of attending classes, and disciplinary environment at institutions and restrictions at household level affect the performance and learning of the students.

Research Methodology

All the students of senior semesters of University College of Administrative sciences kotli are making the population of this study. A total sample of 200 students was taken in this study. A five point likert scale questionnaire was distributed among the students of final semesters of all departments. Moreover the items used in the questionnaire were taken from AL-Amiri (2012) with due acknowledgement.

Table.1.No of students from each Department/Class

S.No	Deptt/Class	No of Students
1	MBA 5 th	30
2	MPA 3 rd	25
3	M-Com 3 rd	25
4	BBA 8 th	30
5	B Com 4 th	30
6	BSIT 8 th	30
7	BSCS 8 th	30
		Total=200

30 questionnaires were distributed to MBA 5th, 25 questionnaires were distributed to each MPA 3rd and M.Com 3rd while 30 questionnaires were distributed to each of undergraduate classes while keeping in view the class size.

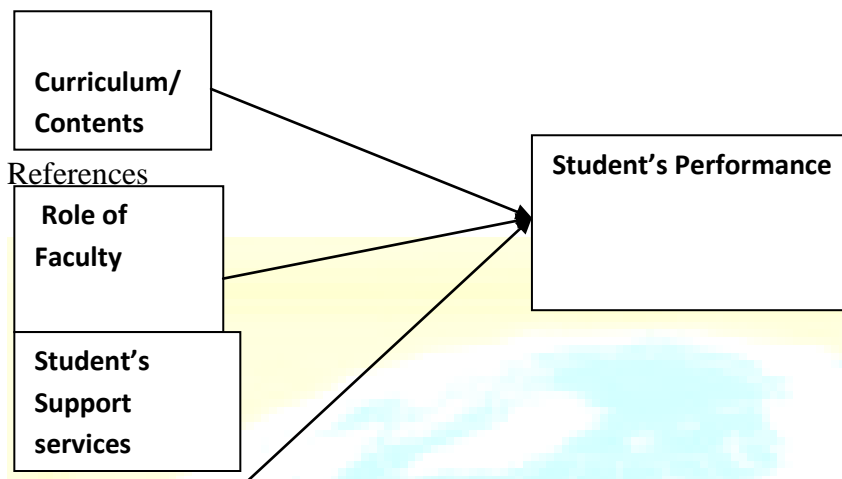
Analytical Framework**Independent Variables****Dependent variable**

Fig.1. Analytical Framework

It can be seen from above figure that Material/contents, role of faculty and facility or student support services are taken independent variable while student's performance is taken as dependent variable.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics mean and standard deviation were used for analyzing the data. Under the heading of course material 12 questions were being asked from students and 11 questions were being asked under the heading of faculty impact while 12 questions were also being asked under the heading of support/resources. Values are calculated as per question /item taken under the category of each variable. Grand values and grand values of mean and standard deviation are also calculated for each variable. Descriptive statistics are used as data analysis tool by using SPSS.version 20.A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed to the students and out of which,178 questionnaires were properly filled and returned and response rate remained 89 % which is enough to make analysis and interpretation.

S.NO	Course Material/Curriculum	Mean	Std.Deviation
1	The information about objectives, requirements, reference books relating to the courses as well as distribution of grades are clear since the start of each semester.	3.2584	1.21691
2	Students are provided with grades according to their performance.	3.0899	1.25000
3	The evaluation of students` performance is fair.	3.0449	1.04595
4	The amount of work is commensurate with the number of credit hours specified for the courses.	3.4326	.96167
5	Test/Quiz/Exam`s questions are clear and understandable	3.6292	.99014
6	Methods of evaluating performance of students greatly vary.(according to sessional work,mid and terminal exams)	3.2809	1.00831
7	Courses help me to improve my skills in a practical manner.	3.8258	3.03799
8	Courses help to improve my ability to communicate effectively	3.9607	2.11362
9	Courses help me to improve my ability to solve problems	3.7416	.75207
10	Contents of each course/subject vary greatly.	3.5449	.90865
11	Methods of teaching of courses vary greatly.	3.6180	.83030
12	Topics of the lectures in each course are appropriately embedded with practical aspect.	3.2247	1.12750
	Role of Faculty		
13	The faculty-student ratio is appropriate.	3.4101	.89273
14	Faculty members are well-prepared with lecture material.	3.6236	.96779
15	Faculty members use teaching methods and teaching aids to enhance learning and understanding of the subject.	3.4705	.97687
16	Faculty members support lectures with the latest information available in the research articles.	3.1629	1.04226
17	Faculty members encourage the students to seek knowledge from various sources.	3.6067	.90345
18	Faculty members treat students gently and respectfully.	3.5084	.98215

19	Faculty members welcome the students' questions.	3.5000	.98147
20	Faculty members are keen to tell the students about their mistakes and to develop their knowledge and skills.	3.4775	1.01517
21	Faculty members are committed in delivering of lectures.	3.5337	1.00927
22	Faculty members are committed to the time allocated for lecture.	3.4438	.90803
23	Faculty members are available during the specified office hours.	4.0674	4.34084
Facilities/Student Support Services.			
24	Laboratories equipments are working well.	2.7921	1.10803
25	Students find enough time to spend in the library	2.9382	1.09007
26	The clinics system and equipment work well	2.8652	1.08603
27	Course/ Reference books are available for the students in the library.	3.0955	1.05063
28	Computer services are available to students.	3.1011	1.22170
29	Healthy/ nutritious food is available to the students	3.4719	4.41387
30	Prayers place is available to the students	3.6124	1.10021
31	Career counseling services are available for the students	2.9719	1.13212
32	The wash rooms are clean and hygienic.	3.4045	4.42187
33	Appropriate transportation facilities are available to students	3.7303	2.39002
34	Appropriate parking is available	4.2640	5.29929
35	The hostel accommodation is appropriate	3.2978	1.04481

Comparison of Variables through Grand Scores

Variables	Grand Mean	Grand Std. Deviation
Course material	3.4710	.62400
Faculty Impact	3.5277	.72338
Resources/Facilities	3.2954	.89152

Table.2.Comparision of Variables

It is quite obvious from above table that role of faculty is a significant indicator of student's performance as students are satisfied with their teachers. Curriculum or course contents is also having an impact on student's performance which ranked second but students are not satisfied with the prevalence of support services or facilities and this factors ranked third.

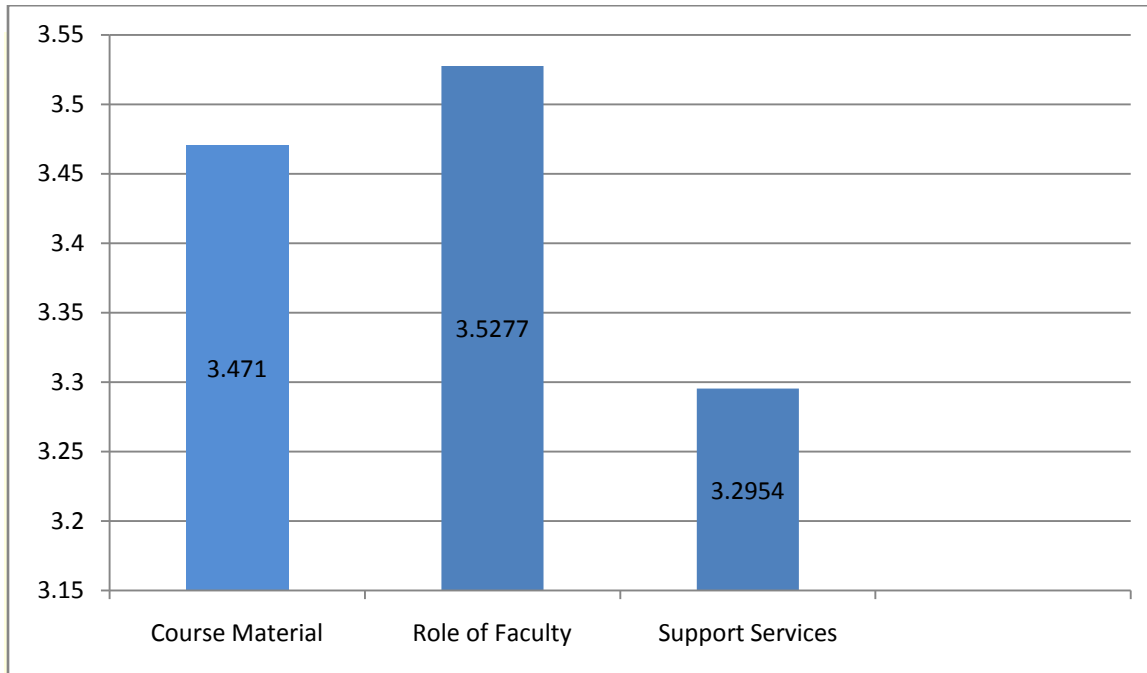


fig.2.Comparison of variables through Bar chart

Discussion

It can be seen from above tables and figures that among all the variables, grand scores (Grand mean=3.5277) for faculty impact remained highest whereas grand scores (grand mean=3.471) for course material remained second while grand scores (Grand mean=3.2954) for support/resources remained third. The performance of students is greatly enhanced by faculty members as it ranked first as the students are satisfied from their course instructors. Students are also satisfied with the course contents delivered to them but impact of this factor remained less the faculty impact in contributing or enhancing student's performance. The contribution of facilities or resources in achieving better performance from students remained less and therefore, it ranked third.

Conclusion

It can be concluded from above discussion that the performance of students is affected by different factors but impact of these three variables is not same and uniform but it is varying. Impact of faculty on student's performance remained highest. The impact of course contents or curriculum remained second while impact of support services remained third in relation with student's performance. University campus needs to facilitate its students for gaining better an improved performance from its students

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