UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

FACILITATION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING IN SELECTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN IRAN

MOHAMMAD SADEGH BIJANDI

FPP 2012 2
FACILITATION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING IN SELECTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN IRAN

By

MOHAMMAD SADEGH BIJANDI

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

August 2012
DEDICATION

Dedicated to my best companion in life, Razieh,

to my beloved parents to whom I owe my everything

and to my clever kids Hanieh and Alireza
Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Chairman: Amminudin bin Hassan, PhD

Faculty: Educational Studies

This study explored and provided the practice of facilitating teaching and learning in selected public and private universities in Iran. Qualitative approach specifically, generic inquiry was employed, because the researcher had the direct experience in this phenomenon. This study was guided by two research questions: 1) what are the conditions that facilitate teaching and learning process in higher education? 2) What are the characteristics of facilitation in teaching and learning process among educational administrators? The data, generated through interviews as the main technique and observations and documents review as supporting techniques. Twenty nine respondents were involved in this study. Twenty of them as educational administrators were the deans of the faculties, the deputies of the deans, the lecturers and the heads of the departments. They should have at least five years experiences in teaching excluding two years experiences or still holding an administration position.
And nine of them as stakeholders were students who were at least in fifth semester and alumni who graduated at most six months before. In this sense, they had plenty of information, experiences and conditions which can facilitate in the process of teaching and learning and academic achievement. The interviews were in Persian. Each interview lasted between fifty minutes to one hour. The interviews were recorded, transcribed verbatim and analyzed manually. Ethical issues were addressed. The trustworthiness of the study was ensured through triangulation, namely member check, peer examination and a documentation of an audit trail.

Examination of the data identified that the conditions for facilitating the teaching and learning process can be classified into two groups including internal conditions and external conditions. By definition, internal conditions refer to educational administration knowledge, which is categorized into professional conditions and academic conditions. Professional conditions in terms of managerial skills are considered as team working and team building, management of personnel, budgeting and resource management, maintaining relationships, negotiation skills, and professional experiences. Data showed that by considering professional conditions by educational administrators the process of teaching and learning will be facilitated.

Data also verified that the academic conditions are information literacy - up to date and access to information -, understanding the aspects of education in the area of community issues, knowing the latest mentoring and assessment methods, having the acceptable craft knowledge in teaching and learning methods and styles, understanding and supporting the societal expectations, and understanding and supporting the students needs and interests. By considering these conditions the process of teaching and learning can be facilitated.
External conditions refer to familiarity and knowing the aims and goals of the education and research sections in The Iran Vision Development Plan (IVDP, 2005-2025), Iran Fifth Development Plan (IFDP, 2010-2015 and Iran Higher Education National Agenda (IHENA, 2009-2013) as the National Plans. Moreover, data cleared that external conditions can facilitate the process of teaching and learning by the ability of using the facilities and financial sources that the government have considered in the IVDP, IFDP and IHENA for higher education through participating and collaborating with scientific committees and meetings.

Examination of the data revealed that characteristics of educational administrators in the process of facilitating teaching and learning can be categorized into four groups including flexible, collaborative, responsive, and creative. This study has provided valuable information, which will be beneficial to all stakeholders in higher education. The study has also contributed to the notion of the process of facilitating teaching and learning higher education in Iran. Finally, it has presented a facilitation model in the process of teaching and learning in higher education.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah.

MENYINGKAP AMALAN MEMUDAHKAN PENGAJARAN DAN PEMBELAJARAN DI UNIVERSITI AWAM DAN SWASTA TERPILIH DI IRAN

Oleh

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Ogos 2012

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Dapatan analisis data menunjukkan bahawa keadaan untuk memudahkan proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran boleh diklasifikasikan kepada dua kategori, iaitu keadaan dalaman dan keadaan luaran. Menurut definisi, keadaan dalaman merujuk kepada pengetahuan pentadbiran pendidikan, yang dikategorikan kepada ciri-ciri profesional dan ciri-ciri akademik. Ciri-ciri profesional dari sudut kemahiran pengurusan meliputi bekerja secara berpasukan dan pembinaan pasukan, pengurusan personel, belanjawan dan pengurusan sumber, mengekalkan perhubungan, kemahiran berunding, dan pengalaman profesional. Data juga mengesahkan bahawa ciri-ciri akademik adalah seperti memiliki maklumat literasi sehingga terpahamnya tarikh akses kepada maklumat, memahami aspek pendidikan melalui isu-isu masyarakat, mengetahui kaedah penilaian dan permentoran terkini, mempunyai pengetahuan yang diterima dalam kaedah dan gaya pengajaran dan pembelajaran, memahami dan menyokong jangkaan masyarakat, dan memahami dan menyokong keperluan dan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am so grateful to the Almighty Allah, for without His approval and given strength I sincerely believe that this dream would not have materialized.

A lot has transpired during the course of this program and in the preparation of this thesis. I am indebted to so many individuals who have made this course an illuminating and enriching venture. My sincere and heartfelt thanks go to my supervisory committee members, Dr. Amminudin, Dr. Roselan, Dr. Tajularipin, from whom I found guidance and solace. It pleases the mind to know that there is support when you needed assistance. Thank you.

Gratitude also goes to the University of Science and Culture (USC) Tehran, Iran for supporting to pursue this doctoral study. Appreciation too goes to the dean, deputy of dean, head of department, academic and none academic staffs of Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia for their support and encouragement. The staffs of the Sultan Abdul Samad Library, Universiti Putra Malaysia who were helpful in assisting me with the needed library aids. Appreciation should also go to the presidents of the selected universities for allowing me to conduct this study. My appreciation too goes to the Principals and lecturers, students and alumni and other staff of the selected faculties for this study. Thank you for the warm support, encouragement and cooperation in making this study possible.
To my dear father, for instilling in me that there is nothing impossible if I tried hard enough for constantly challenging me to go further in life and To my dear mother for always saying a special ‘doa’ in his prayers for me. And to the rest of my family members: my dear brothers and my dear sisters and their lovely families, for believing in me and for giving me the support and encouragement to complete this thesis.

My heartfelt thanks specially go to all my friends, who have directly or indirectly lent me their ears, time and a helping hand when I needed them.

Finally, I would like to thank my love. I indeed owe a lot to my wife Razieh for her incredible support and sacrifices that she has made throughout my candidature. Without her generous sacrifice this accomplishment would have been impossible. Thank the Almighty for giving me my dear ones and granting me the opportunity to study in beautiful Malaysia.
I certify that an Examination Committee has met on....................... to conduct the final Examination of Mohammad Sadegh Bijandi on His Doctor of Philosophy Thesis Entitled “Facilitation of teaching and learning in selected public and private universities in Iran” in accordance with the Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

MOHAMMAD SADEGH BIJANDI

Date: 7 August 2012
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