

## Scientific Research Determinants of Faculty Members in Humanities

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### Abstract:

Universities are major scientific and educational institutions, universities seek to achieve many goals in the academic, research and development of society, which has earned them importance in the field of scientific, technological and service progress; Universities provide scientific and educational research in all fields, this importance has forced universities to continuously strive to adapt and develop with the rapid growth in knowledge and technology.

**Key words:** Scientific research, Arab universities, humanities disciplines.

### محددات البحث العلمي لأعضاء هيئة التدريس في التخصصات الإنسانية

#### المخلص:

تعتبر الجامعات مؤسسات علمية وتربوية رئيسة، تسعى الجامعات إلى تحقيق العديد من الأهداف في الجانب الأكاديمي، البحثي، تنمية المجتمع؛ الأمر الذي أكسبها أهمية في مجال التقدم العلمي والتكنولوجي والخدمات. حيث تقدم الجامعات أبحاث علمية وتربوية في كافة المجالات، هذه الأهمية أجبرت الجامعات على السعي المستمر للتكيف والتطوير مع النمو المتسارع في المعرفة والتكنولوجيا.

**كلمات مفتاحية:** البحث العلمي، الجامعات العربية، التخصصات الإنسانية

## Introduction

Universities are major scientific and educational institutions, and universities seek to achieve many goals in the academic, research and development of society, which has earned them importance in the field of scientific, technological and service progress.

Universities provide scientific and educational research in all fields, this importance forced universities to continuously seek to adapt and develop with the rapid growth of knowledge and technology, they represent the axis of knowledge communication, cultural progress, scientific awareness and social advancement, they have a responsibility: develop professional competencies, promote the academic climate, support educational desires and push scientific competencies to degrees of creativity and innovation, and this requires the development of the education system, modernization and its continuous progress in order to respond to the developments and changes of the modern era.

Education reform processes have received great attention around the world in order to achieve overall quality, the faculty members called this era "the Age of quality", the quality of university education has become one of the most important challenges facing education systems in all third world countries.

Universities need highly qualified faculty members, as the faculty member of the university is considered the driving force for it, and the tool necessary to achieve its goals, not only the role of universities in teaching but also includes scientific research and community development, scientific research is at the top of those roles. The western countries have reached the top of knowledge construction because of their universities that are interested in scientific research (Battah, 2007).

The intellectual contribution of university professors is important to study, as this role is illustrated by what universities play through professors in leading the intellectual movement of society and solving the issues and problems that afflict societies. The methodology and thinking of the scientific researcher help to solve the problems facing society and develop the services provided to the community (Al-Banna, 2017).

Faculty members often face certain limitations that hinder their conduct of scientific research as required or presented in a timely manner, those that hinder the process of scientific research vary between societies, and within the same community,

those determinants vary depending on the working environment. Some of determinants of scientific research is: indifference by the researchers, lack of support for scientific research, large teaching burdens on faculty members, publishing problems, lack of scientific resources, lack of objectivity in Topic of research, lack of attendance at conferences, administrative complications, lack of care for university library, lack of patrols, lack of research assistants, insufficient incentives, difficulty in obtaining devices, materials and supply, lack of time to research, lack of credibility of information obtained, lack of resources , lack of awareness of the importance of scientific research, difficult working conditions, administrative burdens and lack of experience in scientific research. (Ahmed, et al, 2000).

Good scientific production provides opportunities for faculty members to acquire new information and share social and cultural ideas with others. Good scientific research helps in authentic and continuous development, as the vast majority of scientific discoveries have been made through research in the higher education environment. (Akuegwu, et al., 2006)

### **Search problem:**

The faculty member noted that there are some limitations that prevent faculty members in the humanities of Arab Universities from making often-distinct intellectual contributions, and these parameters are related to the university environment and some personal variables that surround the faculty. This is what researchers will try to answer by asking the following main question:

What are the determinants of scientific research for faculty members in humanitarian disciplines?

To answer this question, this study was divided into the following themes:

The first axis: the parameters of scientific research for faculty members in humanitarian specialties.

The second axis: the area of the impact of these parameters on the scientific research of faculty members in humanitarian disciplines.

The third axis: how to overcome the limitations of scientific research for faculty members in humanitarian disciplines.

### **Study objectives:**

This study aims to reveal the reality of the research production among the faculty members in the humanities in Arab Universities according to the quality standards in higher education institutions and to identify the most important of these determinants and their relationship to certain variables.

### **The importance of research:**

Scientific research is an essential task of universities of all kinds in addition to its mission in education, dissemination of knowledge and the preparation of scientific cadres needed by society for development, and scientific research has been given the first priority in some developed countries such as the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Germany and other countries.

The importance of research lies in the importance of intellectual production, which university faculty contributes to the development of societies and increases their economic and social growth rates.

The study of the parameters of the research production of faculty members in the humanities of Arab Universities will provide necessary information for both decision makers in these universities and the National Authority for Accreditation and Quality of Higher Education institutions under the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the importance of this study came in order to work to improve the reality of scientific research in Palestinian higher education institutions, and to work on its development in order to improve the performance of the faculty members to the best possible, in a way that also contributes to the achievement of many benefits for the university and society in general.

Despite the limitations faced by the faculty member in the humanities as a researcher, it can be said that these disciplines are of great importance and an important place among other sciences, particularly natural sciences, and this importance is manifested by:

- Humanities studies are the source of social learning and education through which the educated individual can enter social life by acquiring the customs and traditions of his or her community.
- Humanities studies help the learner to see: by putting him in the time and place in which he lives, enabling the learner to touch the contributions of the past in the formation of the present, and guiding the learner to benefit from the past and the present together in the future.

- Humanities studies increase the interest of learners with many of the social, economic and political problems present.
- Humanities studies help to understand social controls and learn about the traditions of society.
- Humanities studies help develop scientific thinking skills
- Humanities studies develop social sense and the proper social behavior of learners.
- Humanities help to understand the idea of international understanding.
- Human studies emphasize social values in society.
- Humanities studies emphasize the role of education in solving many of the problems of the environment.
- Humanities studies enable learners to understand and appreciate the roles they have played in the past and present.
- Humanities studies develop the ability of learners to criticize, analyze and compare.

### Study terms

**Scientific research:** All practical and academic activities carried out by a faculty member since receiving his PhD, such as: scientific books, published research and supervision of master's and doctoral thesis. (Radhi, 2010, p. 23), which is a solve of a specific problem, through an investigation of all available evidence. (Al- Hayes, 2015).

It is known: An organized intellectual process by a person called a faculty member (in order to study the facts on a particular issue) called the subject of the research (by following an organized scientific method) called the research method) to reach appropriate solutions (called search results). (Mansoure, 2015).

**Faculty Member:** A person who trains his students to use the scientific machine and participates with his students in achieving self-growth for them. (Hadith, 2007).

"The most important element of the educational process is the facilitator, organizer and developer of the teaching and learning process, and he is the one who carries out the task of teaching subjects and courses" (Mansoure, 2015).

The procedural definition of the faculty member: "The most important element of the educational process is the facilitator, the organizer and the direct implementation of the task of teaching the subjects.

He is a researcher and contributor to the service of the community, possessing personal and technical attributes and scientific, professional and social competences necessary for the good performance of his tasks. He is a developing and sophisticated person with the requirements and developments of his profession."

### **First: Scientific Research determinants of faculty members in humanitarian specialties**

There are varieties of classifications of human knowledge in general, which can be classified into natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

Natural sciences are those that are interested in the study of natural phenomena, and these are physics, chemistry, geology and astronomy.

Human disciplines are those sciences or branches of knowledge that tend to study the origin and history of man, as well as looking at changes in literature and art.

There are opinions that suggest the integration of humanities with social disciplines, considering that anthropology is involved in social sciences, and therefore the classification of sciences is based on the distinction between natural and social sciences only.

The differences between natural sciences and humanities can be identified as follows:

- The natural sciences have evolved considerably more than human disciplines.
- The natural sciences differ from the human disciplines in terms of the scientific method used in studies and research, where natural sciences rely on the practical and tangible method based on experimentation, investigation and measurement to reach the correct results, while the human disciplines are unable to reach this level, they are content with survey studies and observations to reach unsecured results.
- Human disciplines are concerned with the social study of man and the impact of nature on him and his impact on nature; Phenomena and things are the subject of natural sciences.

The scientific method applied in human disciplines is different from the scientific method applied in the natural sciences in terms of accuracy.

The parameters of scientific research for faculty members in humanitarian disciplines can be summarized as follows:

- The complexities and change of human phenomena: the human phenomenon is not fixed because it relates to man( Darwish,2013) Since man constantly changes his conditions in terms of space, time, environment and circumstances,

it makes sense that these phenomena are complex as long as they are unstable in a stable state, and the similarity of human phenomena makes it difficult to determine the resulting or causing these phenomena and thus judge and interpret these phenomena (Barghouti, AbuSamra, 2007).

Human phenomena change relatively rapidly, stability is relative, and this reduces the chance of repeating the experiment in very similar circumstances.

Thus, it can be said that the complexity of human phenomena is due to human beings, as it is the focus of human studies, and it is the most complex being as an individual in the community, because human behavior is influenced by several factors that cannot be controlled. (Ahmad, et al, 2013)

- Loss of homogeneity in human phenomena: Although we can generalize about social life and human behavior, human phenomena are often individually and often repetitive.

- Bias and personal tendencies: It is difficult to study phenomena in human disciplines objectively away from personal whims, because phenomena in human disciplines are more sensitive than phenomena in natural disciplines, because they care about the human being as an interactive member of a group, and since man is a creature with the ability to choose to modify his behavior, the substance of human disciplines is greatly influenced by the will and decisions of man. (Ibnkaldun, 2005)

- Inaccuracy of terminology in human disciplines: there is a difference in the use of concepts in human disciplines about concepts in the natural sciences, where concepts in human disciplines are characterized by flexibility and ambiguity, lack of clarity and versatility, while concepts in the natural sciences are more precise and consistent. (AbuSuleiman, 2005)

- Difficulty in reaching the generalization of results: this is demonstrated by the difficulty of reaching clear and consistent laws due to the constant change of the phenomenon in the human disciplines.

- Theories in the field of human disciplines remain relative and not scientifically accurate, because natural sciences deal with Solid materials that can be studied and analyzed without bias, which, unlike human phenomena, are not static;

for example: the natural sciences conduct experiments on things laboratory and repeat them by using the maximum control and rationing, obtain accurate and confirmed results live up to the law. (Al-Farra, 2014)

In humanitarian disciplines, the topics of their research relate to human beings; which are a very complex organism, and the researcher cannot be fully committed when studying his activities.

It is very difficult to study a person laboratory, because it will change its attitudes and reactions as soon as it feels under observation in artificial conditions. In addition, there are other differences between the natural and the human phenomenon, such as: It is easy to identify the causes of natural phenomena, while it is difficult to identify all the causes of the human phenomenon because they are multiple, overlapping and intertwined.

The natural phenomenon is characterized by the absence of the personal, cultural and heritage component; it is devoid of time, space, awareness and will, and on the other hand, these personal, cultural and heritage components are essential to the human phenomenon.

- The difficulty of subjecting human phenomena to the laboratory: natural and experimental sciences (physics, astronomy, chemistry, biology, etc.), is concerned with the study of natural phenomena that can be subject to all observation, measurement and experimentation procedures, but human sciences make it difficult to subject human phenomena to the laboratory with the same methodology as natural sciences. The inability to use the laboratory method in human disciplines is mainly the result of the difficulty of placing human phenomena under controllable and controlled conditions as in the natural sciences. (Tien, 2007)

- The difficulty of experimental control and the isolation of the overlapping variables of the human phenomenon.
- The experimental situation was influenced by the observation of the faculty member, sometimes leading to a change in behavior among individuals - the subject of study and research - and sometimes difficulty to observe.
- Human phenomena change relatively rapidly, reducing the chance of repeating the experiment in quite similar circumstances.
- The abstract nature of certain human concepts, the lack of agreement on specific definitions, and the subjection of certain problems in human disciplines to ethical standards.
- Difficulty measuring human phenomena accurately because there are sometimes no precise measuring tools.



**Second: The area of the impact of these determinants on the scientific research of faculty members in humanitarian specialties:**

The difficulties faced by the faculty member in the field of human specialties can affect scientific research and objectivity by:

- Difficulty to reach meaningful and generalized results: Scientific research is characterized by several characteristics that distinguish it from other studies, in order to consider a specific study scientific research must reach through this study meaningful and generalizable results, this characteristic is found widely available in the natural sciences while this characteristic is weakly found in the field of human studies, because of the association of the human phenomenon with temporal and spatial conditions difficult to repeat with the same degree of accuracy.

- The lack of objectivity in the research: by the primacy of personal inclinations over human research, the subjective is manifested by the following:

- The subject in which a faculty member researches specializations in the humanities is affected by it - because he is part of it - and it is difficult for him to study it with absolute integrity.
- Faculty member may influence the human phenomenon in a way that is different from its own and understands it differently from another faculty member.
- The subject overlaps in human disciplines with the self and is difficult to separate.
- The faculty member of the humanities disciplines is positioned around himself, i.e. he presents his vision of the human phenomenon based on the feelings and beliefs that he carries in his own right, linked to his commitment to philosophical positions or ideological doctrines.
- Intuitive knowledge is involved in the results of the research and this is contrary to the scientific method used in scientific research.

- Making impromptu and arbitrary judgments: The faculty member in the humanitarian specialties -as a result of the absence of much evidence necessary to solve a particular problem, whether political, economic, social or psychological -is quick to make random judgments, which in turn affect scientific research and its credibility.

**Third: How to overcome the limitations of scientific research for faculty members in humanitarian specialties:**

The obstacles to faculty in the field of humanitarian specialties can be overcome as follows:

- The phenomenon in human disciplines exists outside the feeling of individuals, i.e. it is subject to customs and beliefs that guide the behavior of individuals, the laws of society affect the phenomenon in human disciplines, it obliges the individual to abide by them within society. It is also a collective characteristic called the role of a collective conscience; the human phenomenon does not represent a single individual or a small group of individuals, but rather all members of society, the human phenomenon appears in one form and is repeated over a long period of time (Al-Harahsha, 2011).

- That phenomena in human disciplines have a correlation that affects each other and explains each other, such as: the family and society are both affected by each other, that this identification of the phenomenon in the human disciplines corrected some methods of acquaintance corrupt, which led studies in human disciplines to progress in the field of science after human studies were perceptions, says the role of Kayem: no human incident except we can call it a social phenomenon, as the role of Kayem considered that the phenomenon in human disciplines similar to the phenomena that are studied, he says The role of Kayem: We must treat phenomena as things, i.e. the same approach as the natural physicist, among other laws reached by the socialites, is an incoming law that says that individuals are looking for the greatest product with the least effort (Darwish,2013).

Durkheim's Suicide Law: The personal tendency to commit suicide increases with few ties to society. (Mohsen, 2013)

## **Conclusion**

The development of the natural and experimental sciences has helped the humanities to investigate for the development of themselves, by looking for approaches - different from the experimental approach - that can adapt to the specifics of each phenomenon.

In conclusion, it can be said that the accuracy of the laws of the natural sciences is due to its mathematical form, where its amounts are measured in quantity, but the humanities cannot subject their subjects to this quantitative control, and it is impossible to be represented by accurate mathematical equations,

Which has led some researchers in the humanities to say that their sciences are never general, because they are not without exceptional cases that do not enter into their nature.

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