

Community Engagement Programs: A survey of Universities and Higher Education Institutions of Balochistan

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Abstract

Universities in developed world implement various community development/inclusion programs apart from teaching and research activities. They perceive external human capital development as an integral segment along with academic programs. It is viewed that mostly institutions in Pakistan are engaged in teaching and research activities except a few universities which take community engagement as a social responsibility. Concerning to public sector universities the community contribution seems by the institutions is highly limited. There is no culture of serving communities/organizations beyond the boundaries. Presently, HEC¹ reported that 174 Degree awarding institutions are recognized. The study is focused on public sector institutions of Balochistan. Community engagement programs are focused. Role of the universities apart from teaching and research/lab work is discussed in detail. As per HEC directions, all universities in Pakistan and expected to enhance research and innovation activities through the establishment of Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC). This office is dedicated to play a bridging role among academia, industry,

¹HEC: Higher Education Commission. HEC is facilitating and supervisory body of government of Pakistan for degree awarding institutions of the country.