

ABSTRACT

The scope of this research is to study the utilization of research and development (R&D) funds and scholarships nationally/internationally available for the research and development in information and communication technologies (ICT) in public sector universities of Sindh. Increase the ICT related human resource and promote the ICT related R&D and educational programs to fulfill the future need of human capital in ICT sector for the regional development. Human capital plays a key role in the rise and fall of nations, human resource can be developed in a right direction with the help of education. Universities play a highly significant role in regional development. It is expected that socio-economic development should be started at local level and extended to regional level and then contributed positively to sustainable national development. Universities should develop research culture to solve real industrial and societal problems through R&D.

This research focuses on measuring the awareness level of R&D funding opportunities available nationally or internationally for the research and development, interest level of faculty members and students for pursuing PhD education and obtaining and utilization of R&D funds in information and communication technologies (ICT) in public sector universities of Sindh. In this research data is collected from post graduate students and non-PhD faculty members of ICT disciplines of public sector universities of Sindh, through close ended questionnaires and is analyzed in SPSS. The cross tabulation and pearson's chi square tests used to see the significant difference within the universities about the awareness level of

R&D funding opportunities, interest level of faculty members and students for pursuing PhD education and overall obtaining and utilization of R&D funds in public-sector universities of Sindh. The findings reveal that post-graduate students and non-PhD faculty members are not fully aware of R&D funding opportunities, faculty members and students are interested to pursue PhD on scholarship and mostly universities are obtaining and utilizing R&D funds from HEC and national ICT R&D fund. Research concluded that Public sector universities should have to establish office name R&D funding information desk that provide complete information to students and faculty members about nationally/internationally available funding opportunities. This research explored that faculty members and post-graduate students are interested and motivated to do research in public sector universities/institutes of Sindh in ICT. This research also explored that there is a lack of awareness about national and international R&D funding organizations and national ICT R&D funded projects in public sector universities of Sindh in ICT. Most of the post-graduate students and faculty members don't know the proper method of getting R&D funds and scholarships from funding organization.

Industry and academic joint research is one of the important key to promote research culture in our academic institutions. Public sector universities in Sindh are suffering from Low research and development culture. This research is an effort to understand the academic and administrative practices which can help in fund raising for R&D in universities in Sindh. Universities should pay more attention on R&D funded projects and their completion.