ABSTRACT

Developed countries can become advanced through their quality education system. The quality is important in all aspects of life but the quality in the education sector having the top priority. Several countries constitute their quality standards advancing in line with other education standards to control the educational practices in HEIs. Unfortunately, the quality of the Pakistan's HEIs is not that well maintained as other competed advanced countries. The one way to improve the quality of HEIs in Pakistan is set a target to upgrade their national and international ranking status. Ranking helps institutions to build their position and image worldwide and enable them to compete internationally. In Pakistan the ranking of HEIs is measured by HEC. However, the designed ranking parameter by HEC are adopted and modified from two international rankings namely: QS and THE ranking system. It is a major research gap in the literature that if HEC adoption the parameters and criteria from international ranking system than why Pakistani universities does not meet the international standards. This research aims to fill this gap through identification of the best practices that enables HEIs to become internationalize and further few more parameters in the HEC ranking proforma that possess international standards.

This research is focused on two goals: the first goal is to identify those criteria and parameter that are desired in international standards. Second goal is to explore those practices that are considered as best practices in the national and international ranking system and to explore their adaptability and existence in the business institutes in Sindh. In Pakistan this study is based on mix methods however more focused on

quantitative methods. For qualitative method, face to face interviews were conducted and practices were explored and clustered around themes. For quantitative method, semi structured research questionnaire was designed for data collection. The key words of this thesis are best practices, national and international ranking and higher education. The data for this research is collected from Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) of the business institutes in Sindh. In this study, 263 questions in a semi-structured questionnaire were got filled from the twelve business institutions. Pre-testing (pilot study) for data collection was carried out in three business institute of Sindh namely; IoBM, Karachi IBA, and IBA Sukkur to examine the feasibility and validity of the study. Based on the results of pilot study, the questionnaire was modified to obtain better results.

The tools used in this research are: comparison charts, stacked bar charts, descriptive statistics, hierarchical cluster analysis and logistic regression through SPSS. As this research is based on two goals. The results of this study have two research outputs: first proposed best practices model comprises of fifty best practices through which the HEIs can maintain and upgrade their quality standards and to compete internationally through secure positions in international rankings. Second is the proposed ranking proforma for the HEC to improve their quality standards and enables HEIs in Pakistan to compete globally.