

The Importance of Educational Research in Developing Education and the Challenges That Face Faculty Members

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Abstract

Researchers in education are widely regarded as providing benefits to educators, teachers, decision-makers, and all those concerned with education, as well as to the education system itself. The main purpose of educational research is to focus on scientific investigation and provide solutions to problems in the field of education, besides developing the education system. **Aims:** This study endeavors to accomplish the following objectives: (1) To demonstrate the crucial role that research plays in the advancement of education. (2) To identify the challenges and difficulties that face educational research from the viewpoint of faculty members. **Method:** A questionnaire of 22 items was designed for this purpose. This questionnaire was divided into two main parts. (1) Items that relate to the important role of educational research. (2) Items are associated with the challenges and difficulties behind faculty members' reluctance to be engaged in educational research. Several (82) faculty members of the College of Education at Kuwait University make up the total number of faculty members in the College of Education at Kuwait University. This number represents more than 70% of the population of the faculty members (117) at the College of Education at Kuwait University. **The study questions.** This study encompasses three research questions: (1) To what extent do faculty members at the College of Education, perceive the importance of educational research? (2) What are the challenges and difficulties that face faculty members in conducting educational research? (3) Are there statistically significant differences among faculty members' opinions toward educational research and challenges due to gender, age, years of teaching experience, academic rank, and academic department? **Results:** Overall, the findings indicate that there are no statistically significant differences among the faculty members' perspectives. opinions toward importance of the educational research and challenges due to gender (.946), years of teaching experience (.470), academic rank (.690), and academic



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department (.118). This suggests that the majority of faculty members recognize the significance of educational research in fostering the development of education. Regarding results of the first part of the questionnaire, showed that the majority of faculty members emphasized the importance of educational research in developing education. On the other hand, the results of the second part showed that the situations that were raised in the items of the questionnaire such as lack of supporting research personnel, increased teaching load, and weak research plans at the university level represent challenges and difficulties for faculty members that prevent them or reduce their desire to carry out educational research. **Conclusion:** From the results, we can conclude that the majority of the faculty members of the College of Education at Kuwait University agreed that the education research is an important issue for education. However, many of them cannot conduct educational researches because of challenges facing them due to lack of supporting faculty, the teaching load, and the absence of university administration plans regarding educational research, and many other difficulties.

Keywords: educational research, education, college Of education