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# Studying Internationalization Challenges of Curriculum Along With Developing Higher Education System According to Approaches and Experiences

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## ABSTRACT

Curriculum of universities as center of producing knowledge and place of learning for meeting global, national and local needs requires fundamental transformations expertise's tries in informing authorities and decision makers of higher education system about possible hurts and requirements can be a guarantee for its health and continuance recognizing problems and obstacles of internationalizing curriculum of higher education system in order to removing possible inefficiency of this system is the goal of this research. With attention to qualitative nature of this research which has guaranteed interpretive attitude of studied topic, the used method in this research documental analytical. So, giving investigation questions it is dealt with illustrating what is available, description and making clear reasons of problem status. Results of the research suggest necessity of making some changes in curriculum of higher education system in order to internationalizing higher education system and Business in economic - based age.

**Keywords:** Internationalizing Curriculum, Globalizing, Theories Of Higher Education Development.

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## Introduction

Current era have some characteristics which make it distinguished from past era. Of these characteristics we can point to rapid changes that affects all aspects of human life. various aspects of human life have integrated with each other interestingly and result of this integration is particular and various conditions for various systems of the societies [1]. This problem that education system would meet challenges of globalization have

became a major concern for policy - makers of education in recent years. [2,3,4]. In this growing process which countries of the world have joined global trade organization one after another and are concerned with trade and developing country and economical exchanges, ignoring great global transitions is isolating and preparing for an island life. there are various reasons for discussing about internationalizing higher education system

include political, economical, professional, scientific and investigatory, mid – cultural skills, multi – lingual's and attitude changes [6,5]. Political dimension of internationalizing higher education contains governor's and policy – markers political motivations in joining to economic and global society and economical dimension contains training work labor able to do activities in context of mid – cultural and international which suggest value of the international higher education [7].

According by various methods such as focusing on internationalizing in order to meet the new needs of global work, tousing more on international higher education marketing, joining to international projects of investigation and development for competing with new technologies economical and political reasons which now affect higher educations institutes more to be internationalized, are basically of external factors of those institutes.

This means not that universities don't have more internal motivation to be internationalized because scientific environment has changed more rapidly in recent 50 years more independent higher education, has became, more private, more request based and with activated effective sources [9].

One the most important factors that can be effective in this context is curriculum of higher education.

Curriculums of higher education must provide contents and required elements to meet the needs of students who are from aboard and their goal is align with goals of international education in order to academic progresses and cawing cultural experiences and familiarity with language of host country and also defining and introducing their culture, and from other side T must provide contrasts and required

elements in order to preparing internal students for acquiring knowledge and learning and experience of abroad educational contexts ( direct or virtual ) which it should be mentioned that managing and organizing such organizations is considerably sensitive [7]. This fact suggests the importance of current research, accordingly hypothesis of research are given as follow:

1- what are suggested theories in content of developing higher education system?

2- what are conducted researches in context of internationalizing and developing higher education?

3- whit what challenges is face developing higher education align with making earns through internationalizing curriculum?

## **Review of literature**

### **Theoretical viewpoints of developing higher education**

#### **Human capital theory and developing higher education**

Human capital theory is basis of economical analysis of expanding higher education. Hughes and Lauder (1991) describe basic hypothesis of this theory like this: human capital theory claims investment description in higher education as a result of human's basic try in order to social security and competence because in general it is supposed that higher education in ling time leads to more economical earn [10].

According to Schultz (1981) knowledge and quality of population consists determiner principals of human's future potency [11]. According to Harbinson (1973) human sources development skills and science of a nation indicates competency of that nation and a country which is not able to develop and effective use of them in national economy is not able to develop nothing else [12]. From Psacharopoulos

viewpoint (1988) education system extensively is the way of economical progress, as a key for placing technology and science and in the basis of social equality and cultural validity expanding education (social investment in human beings) is a social investment beside physical investment educational investment is one of the evidences of human investments [13].

### **Theory of analyzing cost and usefulness and higher education development**

Theory of analyzing cost and usefulness is another aspect of economical approach in participation and developing higher education which is used as a scientific structure by programmers and students. This theory can be included in human capital theories which suppose at a high level that humans are calculators, and investment in higher education is not easy but related includes some equilibriums which contains cost and usefulness calculations [14]. Tembon (1999) believes that financial policies of higher education in developing countries, with emphasizing on analyzing cost and usefulness cause acquiring interests future [15]. It's worth mentioning that this theory just assess financial profits resulted from higher education, while universities are creators of many other values include personal and social roles which are not measurable with money.

### **Public selection theory and developing higher education**

This theory with describing economical crisis of west in two recent decades and how to save it suggest that roots of this political crisis is related to growth and activity of the government. With respect to this theory democratic processes of pressure groups and explaining their interests on conservative interests of the

government led to growth of welfare – based states. [16]. Lauder (1999) pointed to analyzing imposed pressures by voters and behavior of beneficiary groups on governments and buroucrasi of the government and believes that public selection theory is related to budget section and non – trade decision – making. [17]. This approach also gives similar assumptions about beneficiary behavior and personal reasonable behavior as public economists. Gallagher (1993) argues that Although literature related to public selection theory describes role of voters and policy maker in budgets of government but in fault special beneficiary groups, policy – makers and staffs are main factors. [18]. With respect to mentioned description of public selection theory one can explain development of higher education according to this theory, basically expanding higher education is favorable for staffs of higher education system because with expanding higher education they may earn more money or their social base may improve.

### **Opposition Theory and Developing Higher Education**

In late 1970s, human capital theory loosed its importance. The main reason was that giving human force with higher education in the work market increased more than demand and this increase led to inflation of groveled persons and also led to reducing retire to special level of availability of education. Contrast theory argues that the crisis of graduated peoples and expansion of higher education in general is the result of press of " competition to social base 3 " among groups.

Since higher education closely is related to power and social base different groups try to improve their placement in reaching to higher education. So, with attention to this

theory reasons of expanding higher education must be considered as a kind of competition on social base than need to have a trained personal for particular jobs. [14, 19].

Collins (1977) believes that people groups try to improve their children's status through more access to higher education. Also, we can analysis motivation of high class groups and intermediate class in maintaining their relative position in social hierarchy with increasing their lends of education. [20]. With attention to Collins since minority groups have increased their level of accessibility to education, culturally intermediate high classes also increased their levels of education continuously to place In a necessary progress of education. Therefore higher education and reforms related to this expansion is not the result of being democratic, but also is more result of competing on social base [21].

Another discussion here is that expanded higher education in a globalized economic will increase reward of educational licenses and will be a motive for increasing educational licenses or competition for accessing to main and important universities of the world. Robertson (2000) explains this event as "internationalizing higher education":

" In new age, we will be a witness to internationalizing higher education similar to what happened in 19<sup>th</sup> century for secondary education. Higher education degrees will be as an economical and valuable social capital for most individuals of the society. These individual's motivation is that success in higher education is the main passport for global civilization, giving ability and capacity for life, work, travel, relationship and active participation in global affairs and local works [22]

### **Internal Coherency Theory:**

Coherency and internal logic of various political elements and economical elements specially culture of the society mores that society to be developed and advanced. The reason is that progress of every society like success of each person, is dependent on internal coherency of society energy [23]. Tried theory in current paper is: mainly, development is an internal transformation and is dependent on solving legitimacy crisis in a country, above theory is formed by these assumptions:

Development methodologically is dependent on if – so assumptions logically in dependent on conditional principals.

Financial facilities accompanied by human facilities in a country, a nation or in a society leads to development.

Principally development is a function of internal element and motive.

Internal coherency of a political unit is a constituent of development.

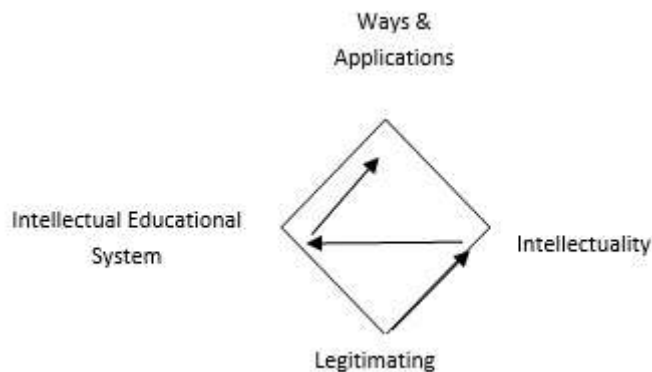
According to figural concept of this theory starts with motion from legitimacy. This consideration is dependent on expanded civilization relationship. Promoting level of people's awareness and the need of society to social forms. Main difference between scientific development and tradition evolution of human is that in recent several decades human has integrated his traditional improvement and evolution with science. Wisdom, action and intellect, and the main reason of ( social structure ) and ( speed ) in human society is scientific traditional evolution. So

Inherent interest in evolution and progress  
+ Science and wisdom = Growth and development + Society formation.

Progress and civilization of each society requires mixing science with thinking and action. This points to third part of internal coherency lozenge like training system, every country or every nation requires a

favorable training system for it's citizens

[24].



**Figure 1.** Internal coherency lozenge in training system

Training a society need passing reasonable levels and action levels and human must be trained for developing society. The results of solving legitimacy crisis are reasonable attitude, active training and educating system, methods, applications. On the other hand it lead to economical growth and development economical development is result of hard cultural and political process. Intellectual political support economically is one of the features of developed countries, according to this feature governments in advanced countries deal with solving contradictions and cultural and political crisis, and it is particularly ignored consideration of third – world countries in which government travel their way independent of people's destiny. [23].

### **Theory of Changing Institutions and Higher Education Organizations**

With presence and developing communication and information technology " knowledge society " main transformations are formed in universities.

This transformations first start from social environment with forming network society which information talks. Then knowledge production changes and finally wrap the structure and content of traditional universities. Some experts named these

transformations as three revolution and don't know it's nature as evolutionary. Others pointed to crisis and challenges which are result of social, economical, cultural and political transformations. Altbach (1999) pointed out to three challenges due to the moving era of changing a classical university to a modern one. These three ones are as mentioned:

**Authority crisis:** as a result of developing universities with low validity, giving knowledge at high levels – is not only monopoly of universities. This caused reduction and sometimes decline of universities power.

**Legitimacy crisis:** universities are not suppliers of the most perfect levels of knowledge anymore.

**Institutional crisis:** Now university can not guarantee it's reconstruction in compliance with society needs. [25, 26].

all above mentioned crisis have made higher education institutes to choose new methods and scenarios for competition. In this regard, Scott, another analyzer of higher education in distinguishing three above mentioned crisis deals with discussing about scenarios which are forming in management of various higher education systems of countries. Scenarios are:

pessimistic Scenario: various institutes and companies are substituted by universities but university exist formally.

Scenario based on participation of the government – market: university based companies formed that are dependent on professors and separating professional and social role

Optimistic Scenario: flexibility of institutional open and responsible university.

In fact, management according to moving to self – adjustment / self – management open market among developing countries is welcome. Traditional university has transformed because of presence of three other transformations.

Quantity crisis: this crisis is result of increasing demand for higher education.

Quality crisis: This problem in general has it's origins in quantity crisis and higher education being heaped and inequality of master to student.

Financial crisis: quantity crisis and lack of new financial resources lead to reducing student's portion a strain of such challenges and crisis have transformed traditional structure of universities.

With respect to global and epidemic nature of these changes the scope of their effects has reached to Iran universities with a small distance [27].

### **Political Development and Higher Education**

Choosing effective educational and industrial policies is one of the challenges of industrial society coming in to super industrial ( wisdom society ). In fact no country can expect progress in future without enough investment in education and investigation. This today knowledge attitude with attention to deep political, social, economical, and effects in accompanied with changes and political changes [28]. There's two ways for progress and development in current

circle: First, through creating government action which is a very complex, long lasting and expanded process. This method requires gradual cultural transformation.

The society must be familiar with organization rule, and gradually apply rationality in reforming behaviors. Developing countries face with problems in this process because of two reasons: first is that time element is against them and second is that technologies is against them. We must choose a shorter, quicker and more effective way. Second way is elitism this means that development must use rational foundations and development in contact of elite in order to help advancing society with use of experts, commitment, and thinking skill. [24].

We can penetrate into considerable effect of higher education in creating and promoting political capacities and abilities of three elements of political development i.e. people, government and civilized society because of vast relationship of political development with human development, and this fact actually facilitates and guarantees constant political development in the society [23].

### **Experiences in This Field**

Ghaheri (2005) proposed " making clear and assessing opportunities and threats of internationalizing event for instruction and training system of Islamic Republic of Iran " which changes internationalization process as a challenge of 21<sup>th</sup> century in triplid dimensions ( economical, political and cultural ) in various countries. So, identifying characteristics and effects of this process is one of the main responsibilities of Iran educational system. economical effects of internationalization which affect this system are: more attention to technical instruction and more use of that in informational technology in political dimension. Internationalization

cause fading supervisory and ruling of government on education system and culturally, internationalization has caused west ruling and fading local features and threatening national identity and religion values and human cultural relationship and identifying other cultures [29]. Sarlak and Soadatmand (2011) pointing to created challenges in today's life which result of internationalization know cultural mission of curriculums as suggesting global think and providing opportunities, growth and personal development of learners. The duty of education system in this regard is understanding place of culture in curriculums and solving problems is more than national boundaries [30]. Khosravi Nejad and Assareh (1390) in various research with investigating internationalization obstacles of curriculums of Azade universities of region 6 ( Khuzestan ) suggested 9 obstacles of political - structural, financial obstacles [ 31,32,33 ] international studies institute (2005) in proposed paper in yearly meeting with topic of " internationalization culture " or " cultural internationalization " pointing to internationalizing culture is full of synchronous relationships through television media, cinema, tourism and trade transitions in mixed with economical, political and cultural dimensions, knows this world as an economical world and an end for being local and nationality and culture of being globalized and cultural globalization proceeds with no boundary along with political and economical powers [34].

Marginson (2007) in a paper called ( higher education globalization ) explaining importance of globalizing culturally and economically which have provided new period in higher education, has pointed to effect of human, cultural, Scientific, technological, and financial capitals in higher education after internationalizing

[35]. Williams and B.C (2008) in a research called internationalizing curriculum: reforms of international student's comparative problems " are going to students see curriculum with a critical view and recognize students needs in lack of probabilistic successes and support plans and perform international curriculum for students. They suggested following cases as challenges of curriculum internationalizing: university support and policies, financial capitals and sources, organizational structure and relationships, in dependence of the faculty and scientific freedom, reward and fee policies, developing the faculty and international experience, interests, skills and mid - cultural knowledge, content concerns about teaching method,[36]. Saat (2009) in paper named " higher education internationalizing: preparation, policy, performance and recognition " says: globalization and being democratic of education leads to appearing internationalization belief specially in developing countries. He deals with describing goals and individuals who are related to this event through distinguishing concept of internationalization and mainly has focused on key roles i.e. chancellor, in this paper, obstacles to which internationalization is facial are told as a list that are: lack of competition, negative attitude toward internationalization, lack of motivation in internationalizing higher education, lack of knowledge and personal expertise, lack of financial sources, educational structure [37]. Liu's finding and results (2010) point to removing several challenges which are:

- 1) there's a need to an open co operational system in order to enhance experiences and resources in an international live.
- 2) Most of universities need structural reinforce in international education.
- 3) Applying new methods of internationalization in universities.

4) culture of registering information of internationalization in order to being used by internal researchers and external researchers must be common. He knows existence of data registering culture, network environment and technological context in higher education system as a step to internationalization. [38]. Kazanowska and Usher (2011) in a research named "internationalization in universities of Canada: Do students know it's value?" with proposing this fact that internationalization is a dynamic process which includes student who study in abroad universities and student of other countries who are studying in universities of Canada suggest that innovation of educational institutes in internationalization is acquiring money and experience through accepting international students. [39]. Khosravi Nejad and Assareh (2013) in a research with investigating educational obstacles of internationalization of curriculums of Azad universities of zone 6, pointed to necessity of removing these obstacles in order to developing higher education and have provided some methods. [40].

### Conclusion

Literature of current research suggest that being internationalized of higher education in Iran is one of the challengeable problems in today world. Lack of informational infrastructures and new technologies in educational methods, presence of scientific distance of the country with global level and lack of effective researcher which is result of weakness of educational system in research mood, weakness and lack of efficiency of educational system (weakness in growth and absorbing intentions, lack of growth of scientific thinking), non-conformity of kind and content of educational programs, a research with

internal needs and global requirements, weakness of national relationship of universities lack of budget in universities non-familiarity and lack of tendency of authorities to information and communication technology, lack of sufficient information in higher education systems in order to stable response to transforming needs of science and technology world, non-using new technologies in universities from some members of the faculty, students and staffs in doing works, non-performing conference with electronically talks, lack of site and suitable facilities in universities are of internationalization obstacles in the universities.

Continuing of universities is possible through relationship with external environment and suitable answering to its problems. With attention to importance of universities internationalization, curriculums internationalization and classes is main goal of universities, according to researchers, curriculum in most countries of the world, is formal told for masters to change student's scientific behavior. Results of internal researches suggest that increasing international relationship of higher education affect curriculum elements very much. Results of some conducted external researches in this context show that internationalizing activities of universities and curriculums paid attention to develop international cooperation and internationalizing curriculums and elements which affect them.

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