The State of Scientific Research and Research Training in Moroccan Universities: Doctoral Students' Perceptions

Abdelaziz Zohri

National school of business and management
LASMO Lab, University Hassan I.
Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco

Abstract

The present paper intends to focus on research training in Moroccan universities through investigating doctoral students' perceptions of this training and drawing conclusions and suggestions for the improvement of higher education research practices. This study used a mixed research method with an explanatory survey design. First, a survey was conducted with 144 Moroccan doctoral students to answer research questions on the integration of research courses in undergraduate curriculum, the quality of this research training and the difficulties facing students while conducting research. Then, interviews were carried out with 40 subjects to seek further explanations and triangulate data obtained through the questionnaire. The findings of this study indicate that doctoral students receive little practical training in research prior to starting doctoral studies. Thus, they undergo a myriad of challenges while writing their doctoral theses as they lack autonomy when it comes to carrying out their investigations. Most often these challenges are linked to narrowing the scope of their research, using appropriate methodology, and publishing their research findings. Besides, the students reported difficulties linked with the quality of supervision they get and the lack of financial support to conduct their research in optimal conditions. Based on these findings, some practical implications and recommendations have been drawn.

Key words: *academic research, higher education, research in the Arab world, research skills, scientific research, training for research*

Cite as: Zohri, A. (2016). The State of Scientific Research and Research Training in Moroccan Universities: Doctoral Students' Perceptions. Arab World English Journal,7 (2). DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.24093/awej/vol7no2.30>