

An Examination of Effective Factors on Academic Success of Students of Zahedan Medical University

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Background: Academic failure of students is one of the basic problems in higher education centers in Iran that, not only causes to waste time and current charges in educational centers, but also leads to psychical, mental, familial and social problems for students. Therefore, this study has been done in order to determine the value of academic success of students of Zahedan medical university and its effective factors.

Methods: The analytical and descriptive study was performed on Zahedan medical students who passed at least one term at university (399 participants), who were studied through random sampling; data were collected by using questionnaires of individual characteristics, their satisfaction of academic major and factors being effective on academic achievement. After collecting information based on class average and terms of failing, students were divided into 2 groups, namely successful and unsuccessful. The effective factors on their academic achievement or lack of achievement were examined in each group and compared with the other.

Results: Findings of this examination showed that 33.8% of students were unsuccessful at the university. There was a significant difference regarding sex, father's job, Diploma average and household economic status between groups ($P < 0.05$), while a significant relation was not observed between variables of age, academic major, parental education and mother's job between groups ($P > 0.05$).

Conclusion: In this research, the most important, effective factors on academic achievement were study method, study time, interest in major and attention and concentration during studying. Among these demographic factors, gender was effective on academic achievement of students, and females were more successful than males. Based on the results of this study, holding educational workshops for curriculum, study and learning methods can be suitable for the educational success of students.

Key Words: Academic success, students, Zahedan

درابه العوامل المؤثرة في المستوى العلمي عند طلاب جامعه زاهدان للعلوم الطبية

التصميم و الهدف: احدى المشاكل الرئيسية في مراكز التعليم هو تراجع المستوى العلمي عند الطلاب و هذا الامر اضافة الي انه يهدر الوقت و التكاليف الباهضة ينتج عنه تعقيدات روحية و نفسية و عائلية و اجتماعية عند الطلاب. تمت هذه الدراسة بهدف تعيين المستوى العلمي عند طلاب جامعه زاهدان للعلوم الطبية و العوامل المؤثرة على هذا المستوى.

الاطلوب: إن هذه الدراسة التوصيفية - التحليلية اجريت على 399 طالب من الذين قد اجتازوا على الاقل فصل دراسي واحد و تم تجميع المعلومات عبر استمارات لو حظ فيها الخصوصيات الفردية و مستوى الرضا من المجال الدراسي و العوامل المؤثرة على النواحي العلمية و بعد تجميع المعلومات تم فرز الطلاب حسب المعدل و الفصول التي رسبوا بها الي فرقتين الموفقين و عدم الموفقين و تمت درابه العوامل الإيجابية السلبية و في الفريقيين.

النتائج: اثارت النتائج اني ان 33.8% من طلاب الجامعة لم يكونوا موفقين و لم يكن هناك اختلاف زوقية من جربت الجنس و عمل الاب و معدل مرحله الثانوية و المستوى الاقتصادي بين الفريقيين.

الاستنتاج: اثارت هذه الدراسة الي أن اهم العوامل المؤثرة في مجال النمو التعليمي هي أسلوب المطالعة و زمن المطالعة و مستوى العلاقة تجاه المجال التعليمي و ايضا وجود الدقة و التركيز الكافي في المطالعة و اثارت الدراسة ايضا الي أن الإناث كانوا افضل من الذكور في المجال التعليمي و نظرا الي هذه النتائج توصي هذه الدراسة الي ايجاد برامج تعليمية تساعد الطلبة في اسلوب المطالعة و التعلم مما ترفع المستوى العلمي عندهم.

الكلمات الرئيسية: الموفقيه العلمية، الطلاب، زاهدان.

زاهدان ميڈیکل یونیورسٹی کے طلباء کی تعلیمی کامیابی کے اسباب و عوامل کا جائزہ .

بیک گراؤنڈ: ملک کے اعلیٰ تعلیمی مراکز کی ایک بنیادی مشکل طلباء کا تعلیمی لحاظ سے ناکام رہنا ہے۔ اس سے نہ صرف ملک کے وسائل و ذرائع اور بجٹ کا اتلاف ہوتا ہے بلکہ روحی، نفسیاتی، گھریلو اور سماجی مسائل بھی جنم لیتے ہیں۔ یہ تحقیق زاهدان میڈیکل یونیورسٹی کے طلباء کی تعلیمی کامیابی کے اسباب و عوامل کا جائزہ لینے کے لئے انجام دی گئی ہے۔

روش: اس تحقیق میں زاهدان میڈیکل یونیورسٹی کے ان طلباء نے شرکت کی تھی جنہوں نے کم از کم اپنی تعلیم کا ایک ٹرم مکمل کر لیا تھا، طلباء کی تعداد تین سو ننانوے تھی جنہیں ریڈم طریقے سے منتخب کیا گیا تھا۔ طلباء کو ایک سوالنامہ دیا گیا تھا جس میں فردی خصوصیات، اپنے موضوع کی تعلیم سے اطمینان اور دیگر موثر عوامل کا ذکر کیا گیا تھا۔ طلباء کے جوابوں کا ان کے سابقہ نمبروں اور تعلیمی تجربے کے مطابق کامیاب اور ناکام طلباء میں تقسیم کیا گیا۔ اس کے بعد ان کی ناکامی اور کامیابی کے اسباب و علل کا تجزیہ کیا گیا اور دونوں کا مقابلہ کیا گیا۔

نتیجے: اس تحقیق سے معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ ناکام طلباء کی شرح تینتیس اعشاریہ آٹھ فیصد ہے۔ ان کی ناکامی میں جنس، کام، والدین، یاسرف باپ، سکینڈری لیول کا پرستش، خاندان کی اقتصادی صورتحال، کا بھی خاص اثر دیکھا گیا۔

سفارشات: اس تحقیق سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ طلباء کی کامیابی میں مطالعہ کی مفید روشیں، تعلیم میں دلچسپی، اور سنجیدگی سے اور دل لگا کر پڑھائی کرنا ہے۔ ڈیموگرافک اسباب میں لڑکیاں لڑکوں سے زیادہ کامیاب رہی ہیں۔ ان نتائج کے پیش نظر تعلیمی منصوبوں کے بارے میں ورک شاپ منعقد کر کے طلباء کو ان کے اہداف و مقاصد سے بہتر آشنا کرنا بہت اچھا رہے گا اسی طرح طلباء کو مطالعے اور پڑھائی کی بہتر روشوں سے آشنا کیا جائے۔ ان امور سے طلباء اپنی تعلیم میں کامیاب ہوسکیں گے۔

کلیدی الفاظ: تعلیمی کامیابی، زاهدان، ورک شاپ .

بررسی عوامل مؤثر بر موفقیت تحصیلی دانشجویان دانشگاه علوم پزشکی زاهدان

زمینه و هدف: عدم موفقیت تحصیلی دانشجویان یکی از مشکلات اصلی مراکز آموزش عالی کشور می باشد که نه تنها باعث هدر رفتن وقت و هزینه های جاری در مراکز آموزشی می شود بلکه سبب ایجاد مسائل و مشکلات روحی-روانی، خانوادگی و اجتماعی برای دانشجویان نیز می گردد مطالعه حاضر با هدف تعیین میزان موفقیت تحصیلی دانشجویان دانشگاه علوم پزشکی زاهدان و عوامل مؤثر بر آن صورت گرفته است.

روش: در طی یک مطالعه توصیفی و تحلیلی که بر روی دانشجویان دانشگاه علوم پزشکی زاهدان که حداقل یک ترم از دوره تحصیلی خود را گذرانده بودند به تعداد 399 نفر که با روش نمونه گیری تصادفی وارد مطالعه شده بودند، جمع آوری داده ها با استفاده از پرسشنامه ویژگیهای فردی، رضایت از رشته تحصیلی و عوامل مؤثر بر پیشرفت تحصیلی بود. پس از جمع آوری اطلاعات دانشجویان برحسب معدل کلاسی و ترمهای مشروطی به 2 دسته دانشجویان موفق و ناموفق تقسیم شده و عوامل مؤثر بر پیشرفت یا عدم پیشرفت تحصیلی هر یک از این دو گروه بررسی و با هم مقایسه شده است.

یافته ها: یافته های این بررسی نشان داد که درصد دانشجویان ناموفق در دانشگاه برابر با 33/8 درصد است. اختلاف معنی داری بین جنس، شغل پدر، معدل دیپلم، وضعیت اقتصادی خانوار در بین دو گروه دانشجویان موفق و ناموفق وجود داشت ($P < 0/05$) در حالی که ارتباط معنی داری بین متغیرهای سن، رشته تحصیلی، سواد والدین، شغل مادر در بین دو گروه دیده نشد ($P > 0/05$).

نتیجه گیری: در این پژوهش مهمترین عوامل مؤثر بر پیشرفت تحصیلی، روش مطالعه، زمان مطالعه و علاقه به رشته و همچنین داشتن دقت و تمرکز هنگام مطالعه بود. در بین عوامل دموگرافیک نیز جنسیت بر موفقیت تحصیلی دانشجویان مؤثر بود و دانشجویان دختر موفق تر از پسران بودند. با توجه به نتایج این مطالعه، برگزاری کارگاههای آموزشی در خصوص برنامه ریزی درسی، شیوه های مطالعه و یادگیری، می تواند در موفقیت تحصیلی دانشجویان، بسیار مناسب باشد.

واژه های کلیدی: موفقیت تحصیلی، دانشجویان، زاهدان

INTRODUCTION

Developing the educational system is enumerated as an important, effective factor in development of countries, as students have an opportunity to achieve success through education; therefore, they use their maximum internal and external capacity for reaching higher educational goals so as to attain necessary conditions of a successful social life; on the other hand, failure in education may lead to individual and social problems, hence deviation from reaching educational system purposes (1, 2). Thus, academic failure of students is one of the basic problems in the centers of higher education in Iran which not only causes to waste time and current charges in educational centers, but also leads to psychical, mental, familial and social problems for students. According to the study done annually, this problem is going to increase, and as a result, most of the students can not undertake educational content (university courses) or finish them on time (2). UNESCO attributes academic failure to grade repetition, early drop-outs and decrease of educational and teaching quality of learners (3). Several studies and investigations represent that a variety of factors can lead to educational failure. In some, addiction to drugs (4) has been considered, and in others, factors, such as personality, motivation and interest, satisfaction, loneliness, expectation of success and family conditions have been mentioned to affect the value of academic success at university (5). Hazavehei et al. found that failing was more common among male students (9.4); the examined factors indicated a significant difference between the review scores of the failed and not failed students in terms of teaching methods, as well as, individual characteristics between them (6).

In the study of Bakohe et al. , there was no significant difference between 3 groups (Excellent, good, medium) in terms of personal, familial and economical factors, but there was a meaningful difference among teaching factors such as presence at class, curriculum and notating points and contents (7). Tovar et al. expressed that there was a significant difference between the opinions of students about teaching methods of masters, student personal characteristics (e.g. being interested in educational major and considering one's study inadequate), in addition to biological and educational problems (e.g. psychological-mental, housing and dormitory, financial, occupation and marriage), with educational failures (the number less than 10 or 10-12 in their lessons) (8).

According to the factors above, doing this study is necessary in medical universities which should educate experienced human force for presenting health and treatment cares through spending much costs. Although similar studies have been done about this context (i.e. medical universities) in many cities, around cultural differences and quick changes of factors over time, we cannot equally pose specific reasons as general and public rules for all societies; this is due to the fact that cultural contexts and rules of each society, namely people's attitudes to education, parents' education and income level and so forth, are all factors which affect academic success or failure in one society rather than another. Thus, as a result of the differences among teachers,

students and teaching system in each unit of university and due to lack of new and exact information about this context at Zahedan Medical University, this study has been performed in order to identify reasons and factors being influential on educational failure in this university, to specify the relation between students demographic characteristics with their achievement, and to represent some proper strategies in this context.

METHODS

The present study is a cross-sectional study (descriptive and analytical), during 1389 – 1390, performed on 399 students of Zahedan Medical University who were chosen through random collection. Inclusion criteria were students who passed at least one complete educational term in Zahedan Medical University, and are educating at this university at the moment.

Students were divided into two groups, successful and unsuccessful ones, after collecting information based on their class average and failing terms; next, students whose average was less than 15 or had at least one failing term, have been classified as unsuccessful students, and students whose average was more than 15 and had no failing term, have been considered as successful ones.

In this study, the instrument of collecting information was the vindicated questionnaire including three parts: part 1 was about demographic information of students (age, sex, occupation, marital status, having or not having failed), part 2 was related to the rate of students' satisfaction with their educational major. In this part, questions were designed on the basis of a 5-option Likert scale (with scores varying from 1 to 5); the maximum score belongs to full satisfaction with academic major, and the minimum score belongs to dissatisfaction with academic major. Finally, total scores were calculated out of 100. Part 3 of questionnaires was related to the effective factors on educational achievement or lack of achievement of students.

The content validity was controlled and improved through three observations and negotiations with faculty members in Beheshti Medical University. Experimentally, 30? students completed the questionnaire. Cronbach Alpha was 0.75 which showed a good ending. After collecting information, data were analyzed by using software SPSS and Chi-Square test.

RESULTS

Out of 858 students of Zahedan Medical University, 399 participated in this study; based on their average and failing history, 200 students were placed as successful students and 199 as unsuccessful ones. Examination on demographic features indicated a significant difference between two groups of students (successful and unsuccessful) in some background features (chart1). Failing rate was 8.02%, and no difference was seen regarding age in each group ($P > 0.05$). In this study, there was no difference in each group about educational level, marital status, number of the units passed, residence, mother's job and parent's education ($P < 0.05$).

In terms of the place of residence (less than 50 Km away is considered as a native), 30% of students were native and living with their parents or spouse, and 67% lived in students' dormitory, and 3% lived in the rented dormitory.

table1. Absolute and relative frequency distribution of academic success and failure of students based on demographic factors				
P value	unsuccessful	successful	Group	
	n(%)	n(%)	Factors	
0.441	(47.5)79	(52.5)87	20 years old and less	
	(51.5)120	(48.5)113	more than 20 years old	
0.017	(57)90	(43)67	Male	
	(45)109	(55)133	female	
0.800	(50)141	(50)136	Student dormitory	
	(47.5)58	(52.5)64	With family (native)	
0.001	(48)96	(66)132	18 and above	
	(44)87	(31)62	15 to 17.9	
	(7)14	(2)4	13 to 14.9	
	(1)2	(1)2	Less than 13	
0.032	(49)97	(42.5)85	Self-employment	
	(41)82	(52.5)105	employee	
	(10)20	(5)10	unemployed	
0.014	(11)22	(5.5)11	weak	
	(61)121	(52.5)105	Medium	
	(26)52	(38.5)77	good	
	(2)4	(3.5)7	excellent	

In the present study, no difference regarding the education level of parents was observed between two groups .

This research illustrated that the satisfaction with educational major can be influential on success or failure of students. (chart2)

There was no significant difference between two groups in case of some effective factors on academic achievement, such as concentration and attention in the classroom, study method, studying time during 24 hours, quota of admission, presence in the class and interest in one's major, (P<0.05) (chart 3).

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrated that gender is

related to academic success. The effect of gender on education has been indicated in some studies (6, 9, 10, 11, 12), which means the value of academic failure has significantly been more in male students than female ones, which is also consistence with our examination. However, some other studies such as Moniri et al. and Alikhani et al. have shown that there is no relation between gender and academic success (13, 14). The reason of academic failure is different in men and women. Women have educational failure because of personal reasons such as marriage, and men are unsuccessful in education due to working and enjoying more freedom; it should be noted that economical factors are impressive on both of them.

Table 2. Absolute and relative frequency distribution of academic success and failure of students based on satisfaction with one's major			
P value	unsuccessful	Successful	Group satisfaction
	n(%)	n(%)	
0.042	(7) 14	(2.5)5	low
	(42) 83	(36.5) 73	Medium
	(50)99	(57)114	Good
	(1)2	(4)8	excellent

Table 3. Absolute and relative frequency distribution of academic success and failure of students due to the effective factors on academic achievement				
P value	Unsuccessful n (%)	Successful n (%)	Group	Factors
0.014	(22) 43	(18) 36	Low	Attention and concentration
	(68) 136	(61.5) 123	Medium	
	(10) 20	(20.5) 41	high	
0.0001	(10)20	(12)24	With careful planning	Study method
	(41)81	(59.5)119	With free programs	
	(49)98	(28.5) 57	Without planning	
0.026	(47) 93	(32) 64	Less than 2 hours	Study time
	(32) 63	(41.5) 83	Between 2 until 4 hours	
	(15) 31	(20) 40	Between 4 until 6 hours	
	(6) 12	(6.5) 13	More than 6 hours	
0.036	(6.5) 13	(6) 12	Region 1	Quota of admission
	(38) 76	(49.5) 99	Region 2	
	(51) 101	(43.5) 87	Region 3	
	(4.5) 9	(1) 2	Quotas of Shahed and Isargaran (martyrs and veterans)	
0.023	(9) 19	(4.5) 9	Low	Motivation of continuing education
	(35) 69	(27.5) 55	Medium	
	(56) 111	(68) 136	High	
0.029	(16)31	(8)15	Low	Interest in major
	(48) 96	(49) 98	Medium	
	(36) 72	(43) 87	high	

In this study, a significant difference was observed between successful and unsuccessful students in their Diploma average; students whose average was better at high school turned out to be more successful at university, but students whose average seemed worse at high school, had reached lower average at university in comparison with the others. Some other researches, such as Motlagh et al. , Changizi et al. , Tagharrobi et al , Khazaei et al. , Alikhani et al. , Moniri et al. , Borghei et al. (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15) have also confirmed the result of the present study. According to these similar results in various studies, about medical context, it can be said that this positive relation between Diploma average and academic achievement may sustain the selection of students for entry to university based on high school average. Other findings of this study signified that there was a relation between the household economic situations of successful and unsuccessful students. Researches done about the effect of economic circumstances of students on their academic achievements, have represented different results. Some studies have showed students whose families are poor, have weak educational performance (9, 13, 16, 17, 18). In 2002,

findings of Zappala's research showed that people whose families belong to low economic level, study less and have negative attitude toward education and have more early dropouts (19); this is in line with present findings. On the other hand, in some studies, the relation between social economical situation and academic achievement has not been confirmed (10, 20). In the present study, 70.4% of unsuccessful students were not native (i.e. distance from their place of residence to university is more than 50 Km); however, there was no significant relation between residence and students success in this examination. Other studies, such as Hazavehei et al. , Bokahe et al. , Tagharrobi et al. , Khgzaei et al. , Moniri et al. and Borghei et al. have confirmed ththe above-mentioned finding (6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15), and are consistence with present findings. Perhaps, suitable physical conditions and facilities of student dormitories, ease of access to scientific sources and consultative and guidance facilities for students in dormitories, competition among dormitories, for non-native students, as well as, familial problems for native students the way they spend their leisure time, have led to the

absence for providing necessary facilities in dormitories, or, still there may be other reasons. Nevertheless, other studies have represented several deficiencies in university dormitories (e.g., being over-crowded, mal-nutrition and lack of welfare facilities), which can justify educational failure among non-native students compared to native ones (9, 10, 13, 21)

In this study, the value of satisfaction with academic major was significantly less among unsuccessful students than successful ones. Unsuccessful students have less satisfaction with their academic major. This means that the way of choosing one's major has not been suitable. Students do not fully understand their educational major, and sometimes, their family or friends guide them inappropriately which ends in their dissatisfaction, lack of sufficient motivation to study, and making fewer attempts. Besides, Vanhanen expressed dissatisfaction of nursing students with course content is one of the reasons for their educational failure (22). Other researchers claimed that unsuccessful students relate their educational failure to the teaching method of professors, and their own individual characteristics, such as being uninterested in academic major (8, 23).

Most of these problems are due to the result of parents' pressure on students to choose a major against their will. These findings are consistent with Moniri et al. in Kashan, Hazavehei et al. in Hamadan and Jebraeily et al. in Urumiyeh (6, 14, 24).

In this study, a significant relation was found in case of some variables, such as interest in academic major, motivation to continue education and the way of choosing one's major, between the two groups. In other words, most of the unsuccessful students have less interest and motivation to study. Therefore, it can be concluded that enthusiastic and efficient human force can play an outstanding role in providing individual and social health, and that inattention to these issues may result in the inability to fulfill our

duties, even if we have advanced facilities.

Influential factors on the failure of students of Zahedan Medical University are not different from other universities, and are consistent with most of the studies performed at other universities and higher education institutions. Findings of this study specify that gender, Diploma's average, father's job, economic status of family, satisfaction with one's academic major, concentration and attention, study method, studying time in 24 hours, quota of admission, interest and motivation and the way of choosing one's major have affected success and failure of students. Thus, it seems necessary to take some measures for preventing students' failure. These measures can include considering and supporting students more against the educational failure, providing workshops for curriculum, study and learning method and considering motivations effective on academic success of students. Finally, planning a smart teaching system is essential at universities in order to identify students' problems in terms of their personal conditions effective on their academic failure, and take preventive steps against their educational failure.

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Legal confirmation: this study is based on the thesis of examination on the value of academic success of students of Zahedan Medical University and effective factors. The researching commission of centers of studies and development of Tehran Beheshti Medical University has confirmed it.

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