

Challenges and Opportunities for Students at Higher Educational Level: A Case Study of University of Balochistan:

By

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Abstract:

The present research work is based on the student's perceptions about their present and future achievements viz a viz in the academic and job career. The research examines that what hindrances and opportunities young disciples have as options to fulfill so that they could excel in their careers. The research is designed in such a way that it would answer the key questions that how their social, economic, gender and academic backgrounds have affected the students struggle of fulfilling their dreams of good academic and future career. This article provides an insight into the understandings of the students themselves about the issues of their career and expected solutions. The research work is based on the case study of University of Balochistan and it has been endeavored that both the genders should get an equal chance of giving their opinion regarding the issue which primarily concerns them. A questioner was designed through random sampling it was distributed among the students of university and then the data was analyzed through SPSS and results were interpreted which suggests that its external factors which students feel more troublesome than the internal ones.

Keywords: Students achievements, career counseling, family income, demography, higher education, gender discrimination.

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Introduction:

Balochistan is one of the largest yet backward provinces of Pakistan. It covers 44% of total landmass of the state with thin and scattered population with limited economic resources. The source of income in province is based on the pastoralism as the water resources are meager and seldom rain falls makes it adverse (Balochistan 1908: 23) (Dani 2007: 45). The lack of industrial economy has diminished the hopes of modern economic and market oriented economy in the province. The poor economic conditions in general has discouraged people from acquiring education for their young kids and since childhood kids are supposed to contribute in the family earnings rather than going to schools. This condition is worst in the rural areas and interior Balochistan. So the kids say goodbye to education at a very young age and this makes little chances of youth for being admitted in the higher educational institutions which is the main area of concern for present research.

The general culture of the province is tribal in nature and conservative pertinent to girl's education. There are little chances for the girls living in the interior Balochistan to access to higher educational institutions. Majority of these institutions are located in the major cities and people do not allow their females go to other cities to pursue education. Although new universities have been established in the interior Balochistan, however the infrastructure and human resources are very limited. Another hindrance for girl's education is the nature of higher educational institutions as being co-education which is generally not appreciated by the people as they think it is against the social norms of the province. This is one of the main reasons that Sardar Bahador Khan (SBK) Women University was established but this university has its own administrative, academic and financial problems. This leads to further decrease in the girl's education and widening the literacy gap existing in province.

Besides socio-economic problems the schools and colleges in the interior Balochistan do not have adequate number of teachers and updated infrastructure which are inevitable for quality education. Furthermore, the teachers at school levels mostly lack the competency and training to impart education. This leads to increase in the drop out ratio on one hand and weak educational bases for child on the other hand. After going through all above mentioned problem successfully, the students get admission in the higher educational institution of Balochistan and their problem does not end here too. The present research is focused on the problems which arise at university level and it hampers the learning

achievement at this level. The research work will be dealing with both genders and it would try to bring forth problem and seek applicable solutions to the problems.

Hypothesis:

The hypothesis of the present study is that students face multiple challenges and opportunities which are external and internal in nature, however it is external factors which affect learners the most.

Review of Literature:

A great number of books, articles and scholarly essays have been written on the subject of education and imparting it. The main purpose of every educational policy is to maximize the benefit of education and trained the young generation. In this perspective here only few books and article are reviewed so that the glimpse of the available secondary date is highlighted.

Educational services or its administrations are frequently not extensive, besides it's hard to gauge in face of the reality that they bring about type of change of information, life skills and conduct modifications of students (Tsinidou Gerogiannis and Fitsilis 2010). One of the main factors affecting student's learning is the environment in which the person is being educated. The family background, socio-economic condition and the teachers of the institution play a vital in the academic environment and the level of the student's achievements. These philanthropic curriculums play a vital role in accomplishments of de facto objectives of education at institutions (Goddard 2003). Furthermore, the social structure, parents' interest and concerns pertinent to their child's education enhance the academic achievements of their kid (Furstenberg & Hughes 1995). Gender affects the performance of students too. The scholars debate that the difference in the performance of boys and girls in their academic career are crucial. The general tendencies are that the girls have better performances than boys in few examples of learning's (Chambers & Schreiber 2004). Gender, background, and family's source of income are substantial factors to student's achievement in his/her academic career (McCoy 2005) (Peng & Hall 1995). The other demographic mechanisms also have important the impacts of higher and bachelor's level are still common at the specific level (Capraro M. Capraro R. and Wiggins 2000). This can be deliberated in various methods; it is commonly ascertained by taking a gander at paternal training, occupation, wage, and services developed by people freely. Maternal training and family educational level

have positive connections with the students' nature of accomplishment (Caldas and Bankston 1997) (Jeynes 2002) (Parelius D. Parelius A. 1987) (Mitchell and Collom 2001) (Ma and Klinger 2000). The students with abnormal state of educational performance at any level i.e. higher or bachelor's level perform superior to anything the white collar class or students belonging to proletariat or even lower economic class perform superior to the students with low level of education (Garzon 2006) (Kahlenberg 2006) (Kirkup 2008). All these books and articles are written from a generalist perspectives and the primary aim of present research is focused on issues relating to the students of Balochistan in general and universities of Quetta city in particular. As there is very little or almost nonexistent material available on similar issue of institutions and students of Balochistan so this work will provide a stepping stone in the highlighting of this important aspect of our society on which the entire hope of our future is casted.

Research Design:

The framework of the present article is based on the two main variables i.e. independent and dependent variables. The independent variables are family background, income, area, gender (external factors) and university environment, social media effects, teacher's behavior/ provision of reading materials (internal factors). On the other hand, the dependent variables are student's class and degree achievements, leaning improvements and a job career. The student's achievement is measured by their expectation of getting good jobs and developing good career. The present work has endeavored to cover these factors and its results which could be applied to other similar situations.

Methodology:

The population of the present study is very large and resources did not allow the researcher contacting all the elements of the population. Hence, the researcher selected 200 students as a sample by applying simple random sampling technique keeping in view some limitations of the present study. Overall response rate from the respondents was 100% due to making a closer contact to all the sampled students and therefore the students were very much cooperative to return the filled questionnaire in a quite convenient time.

Tools of Data Collection:

The present study is descriptive, qualitative cum quantitative in its nature and therefore survey technique is applied to complete this study.

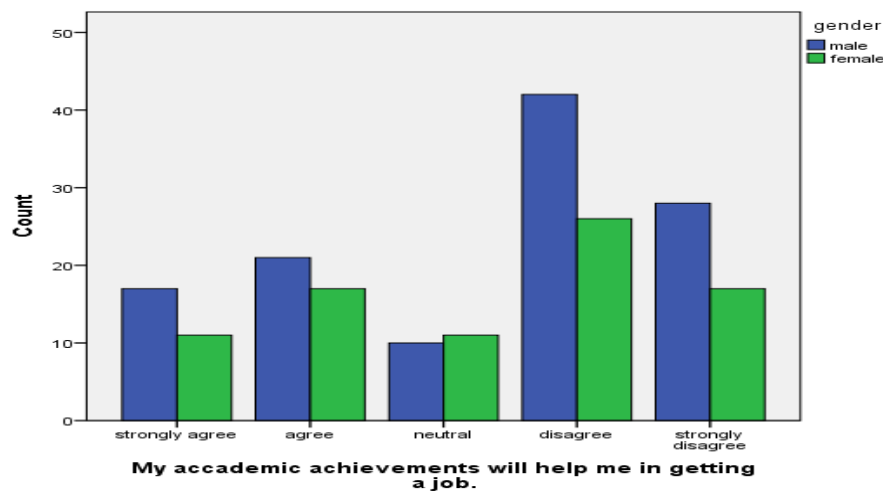
particularly focusing University of Balochistan, Quetta as a case study. A comprehensive semi-structured questionnaire was designed. The Likert's scales of measurement were applied where necessary in the data instrument. The question items were logically developed to ensure the validity of data instrument.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

After completing the data collection phase, the collected data were analyzed and interpreted by the application of Chi-square, Correlation followed by SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). The generated hypotheses were tested accordingly. The data were cross-tabulated as well. Over all, the collected data were shown in tabular and graphical way for getting the inferences. It is concluded that, a number of factors affecting student's achievements which were specifically indicated as the part of data analysis and interpretation.

The data which is obtained by above mentioned technique is here interpreted and analysis is made so that the variables (factors) could be cross-checked and results could be obtained. The methodology of the present work was based on the survey of the students through a structured questioner and the students were asked different questions about the factors which they (students) think are the hurdles or opportunities for making a bright future.

Now here these factors and its interpretations are given in tabular and chart form. Every factor and its affects are given in details.

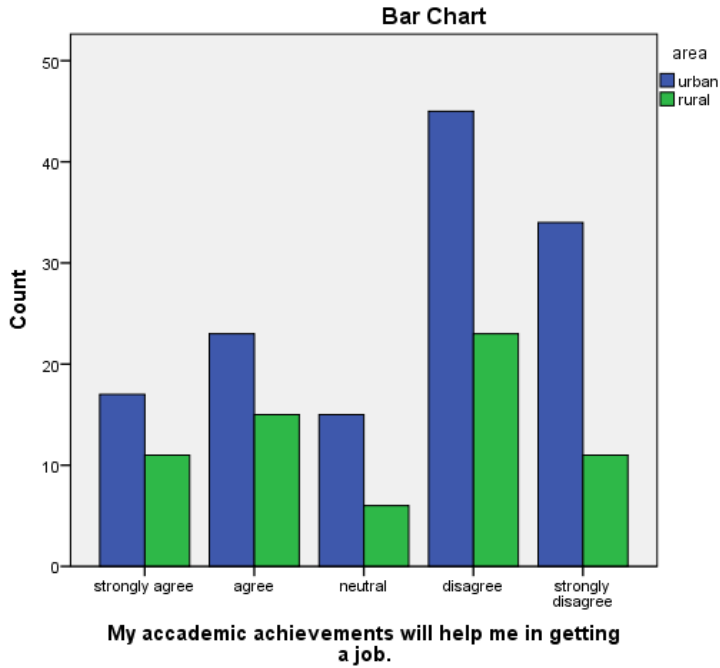


Gender

My academic achievements will help me in getting a job.			Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	Valid	Male	17	60.7	60.7	60.7
		Female	11	39.3	39.3	100.0
		Total	28	100.0	100.0	
Agree	Valid	Male	21	55.3	55.3	55.3
		Female	17	44.7	44.7	100.0
		Total	38	100.0	100.0	
Neutral	Valid	Male	10	47.6	47.6	47.6
		Female	11	52.4	52.4	100.0
		Total	21	100.0	100.0	
Disagree	Valid	Male	42	61.8	61.8	61.8
		Female	26	38.2	38.2	100.0
		Total	68	100.0	100.0	
strongly disagree	Valid	Male	28	62.2	62.2	62.2
		Female	17	37.8	37.8	100.0
		Total	45	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation:

From the above multiple bar chart we can see that 17 male students and 11 female students are saying that they strongly agree about that academic achievements will help him getting a job, 21 male students and 17 female students are saying that they agree about that academic achievements will help him getting a job, 10 male students and 11 female students are saying that they are neutral about that academic achievements will help him getting a job, 42 male students and 26 female students are saying that they disagree about that academic achievements will help him getting a job and 28 male students and 17 female students are saying that they strongly disagree about that academic achievements will help him getting a job out of 200 students.



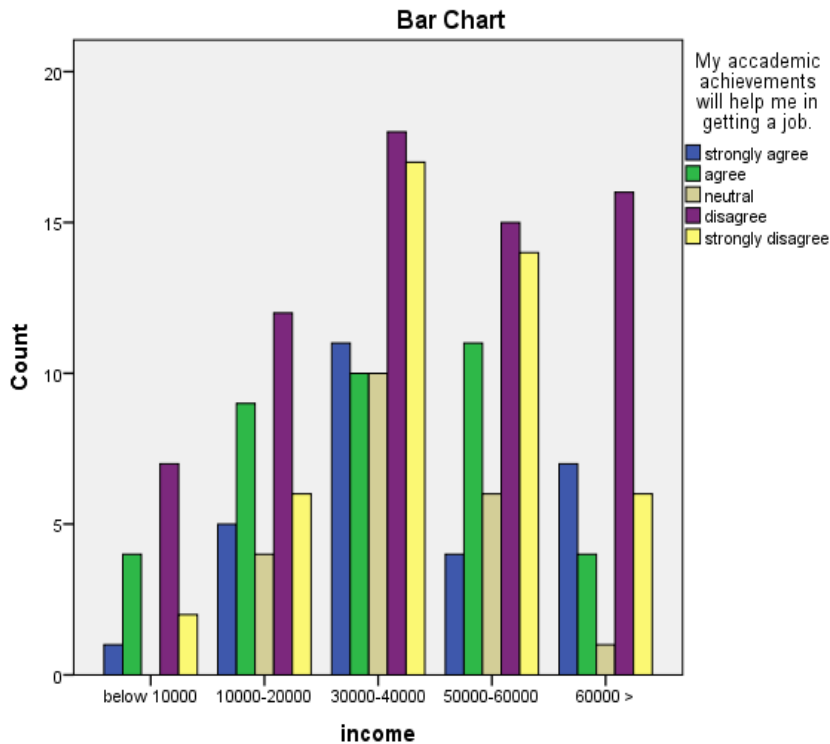
My academic achievements will help me in getting a job. * area Cross tabulation

Area

My academic achievements will help me in getting a job.			Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	Valid	urban	17	60.7	60.7	60.7
		rural	11	39.3	39.3	100.0
		Total	28	100.0	100.0	
Agree	Valid	urban	23	60.5	60.5	60.5
		rural	15	39.5	39.5	100.0
		Total	38	100.0	100.0	
Neutral	Valid	urban	15	71.4	71.4	71.4
		rural	6	28.6	28.6	100.0
		Total	21	100.0	100.0	
Disagree	Valid	urban	45	66.2	66.2	66.2
		rural	23	33.8	33.8	100.0
		Total	68	100.0	100.0	
strongly disagree	Valid	urban	34	75.6	75.6	75.6
		rural	11	24.4	24.4	100.0
		Total	45	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation:

From the above multiple bar chart we can see that 17 urban students and 11 rural students are saying that they strongly agree about that academic achievements will help him getting a job, 23 urban students and 15 rural students are saying that they agree about that academic achievements will help him getting a job, 15 urban students and 6 rural students are saying that they are neutral about that academic achievements will help him getting a job, 45 urban students and 23 rural students are saying that they disagree about that academic achievements will help him getting a job and 34 urban and 11 rural students are saying that they strongly disagree about that academic achievements will help him getting a job out of 200 students.

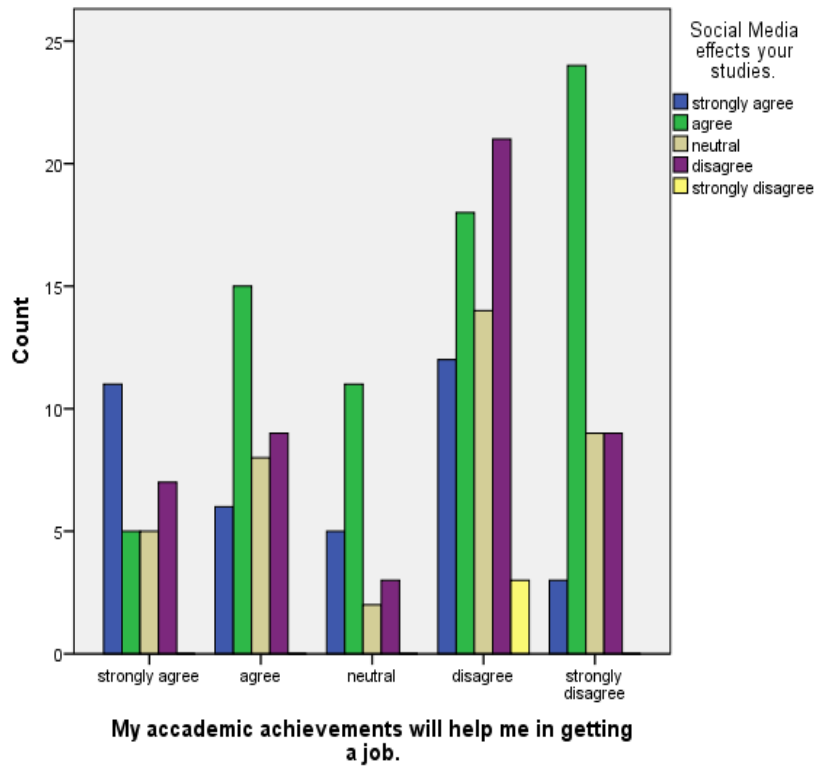


Income

My academic achievements will help me in getting a job.			Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	Valid	below 10000	1	3.6	3.6	3.6
		10000-20000	5	17.9	17.9	21.4
		30000-40000	11	39.3	39.3	60.7
		50000-60000	4	14.3	14.3	75.0
		60000 >	7	25.0	25.0	100.0
		Total	28	100.0	100.0	
Agree	Valid	below 10000	4	10.5	10.5	10.5
		10000-20000	9	23.7	23.7	34.2
		30000-40000	10	26.3	26.3	60.5
		50000-60000	11	28.9	28.9	89.5
		60000 >	4	10.5	10.5	100.0
		Total	38	100.0	100.0	
Neutral	Valid	10000-20000	4	19.0	19.0	19.0
		30000-40000	10	47.6	47.6	66.7
		50000-60000	6	28.6	28.6	95.2
		60000 >	1	4.8	4.8	100.0
		Total	21	100.0	100.0	
Disagree	Valid	below 10000	7	10.3	10.3	10.3
		10000-20000	12	17.6	17.6	27.9
		30000-40000	18	26.5	26.5	54.4
		50000-60000	15	22.1	22.1	76.5
		60000 >	16	23.5	23.5	100.0
		Total	68	100.0	100.0	
strongly disagree	Valid	below 10000	2	4.4	4.4	4.4
		10000-20000	6	13.3	13.3	17.8
		30000-40000	17	37.8	37.8	55.6
		50000-60000	14	31.1	31.1	86.7
		60000 >	6	13.3	13.3	100.0
		Total	45	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation:

From the above multiple bar chart we can see that in all income ranges the purple bars(disagree) are having the highest frequencies so here we conclude that the students with various family incomes are disagreeing that academic achievements will help them in getting a job.



Social Media affects your studies.

My academic achievements will help me in getting a job.			Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	Valid	strongly agree	11	39.3	39.3	39.3
		Agree	5	17.9	17.9	57.1
		Neutral	5	17.9	17.9	75.0
		Disagree	7	25.0	25.0	100.0
		Total	28	100.0	100.0	
Agree	Valid	strongly agree	6	15.8	15.8	15.8
		Agree	15	39.5	39.5	55.3
		Neutral	8	21.1	21.1	76.3
		Disagree	9	23.7	23.7	100.0
		Total	38	100.0	100.0	
Neutral	Valid	strongly agree	5	23.8	23.8	23.8
		Agree	11	52.4	52.4	76.2
		Neutral	2	9.5	9.5	85.7
		Disagree	3	14.3	14.3	100.0
		Total	21	100.0	100.0	
Disagree	Valid	strongly agree	12	17.6	17.6	17.6
		Agree	18	26.5	26.5	44.1
		Neutral	14	20.6	20.6	64.7
		Disagree	21	30.9	30.9	95.6
		strongly disagree	3	4.4	4.4	100.0
		Total	68	100.0	100.0	
strongly disagree	Valid	strongly agree	3	6.7	6.7	6.7
		agree	24	53.3	53.3	60.0
		neutral	9	20.0	20.0	80.0
		disagree	9	20.0	20.0	100.0
		Total	45	100.0	100.0	

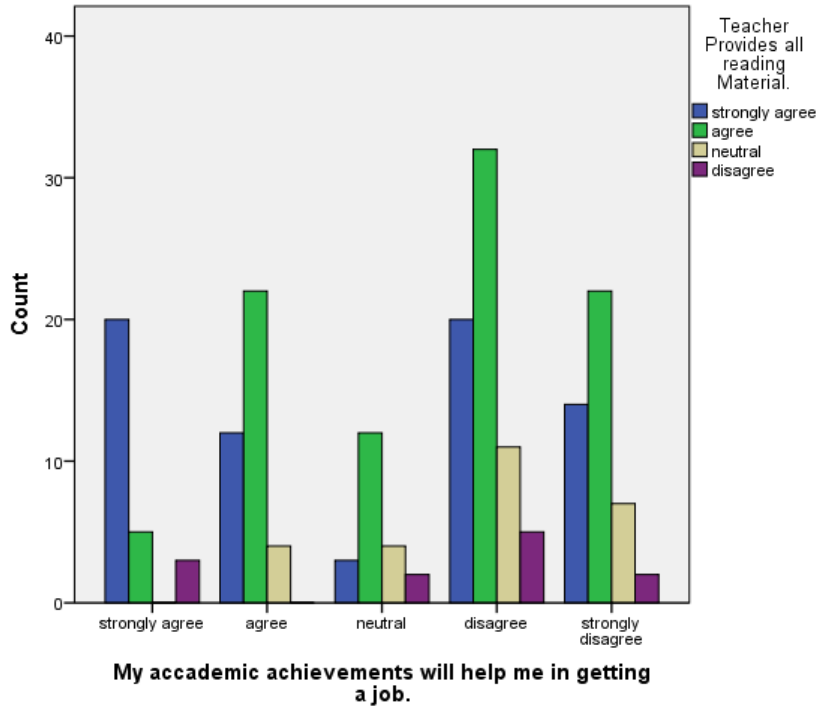
Interpretation:

From the above multiple bar chart we can see that in the first option (strongly agree) most of the students(11 out of 28) are saying that they strongly agree(blue) that social media is effecting their studies, in the second option(agree) most of the students(15 out of 38) are saying that they agree(green) that social media is effecting their studies, in the third option(neutral) most of the students(11 out of 21) are saying that they agree(green) that social media is effecting their studies, in the fourth option(disagree) most of the students(21 out of 68) are saying that they disagree(purple) that social media is effecting their studies and in the last option(strongly disagree) most of the students(24 out of 45) are saying

that they agree(green) that social media is effecting their studies out of 200 students

Teacher Provides all reading Material.

My academic achievements will help me in getting a job.			Freq uenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	Valid	strongly agree	20	71.4	71.4	71.4
		agree	5	17.9	17.9	89.3
		disagree	3	10.7	10.7	100.0
		Total	28	100.0	100.0	
Agree	Valid	strongly agree	12	31.6	31.6	31.6
		agree	22	57.9	57.9	89.5
		neutral	4	10.5	10.5	100.0
		Total	38	100.0	100.0	
Neutral	Valid	strongly agree	3	14.3	14.3	14.3
		agree	12	57.1	57.1	71.4
		neutral	4	19.0	19.0	90.5
		disagree	2	9.5	9.5	100.0
		Total	21	100.0	100.0	
Disagree	Valid	strongly agree	20	29.4	29.4	29.4
		agree	32	47.1	47.1	76.5
		neutral	11	16.2	16.2	92.6
		disagree	5	7.4	7.4	100.0
		Total	68	100.0	100.0	
strongly disagree	Valid	strongly agree	14	31.1	31.1	31.1
		agree	22	48.9	48.9	80.0
		neutral	7	15.6	15.6	95.6
		disagree	2	4.4	4.4	100.0
		Total	45	100.0	100.0	

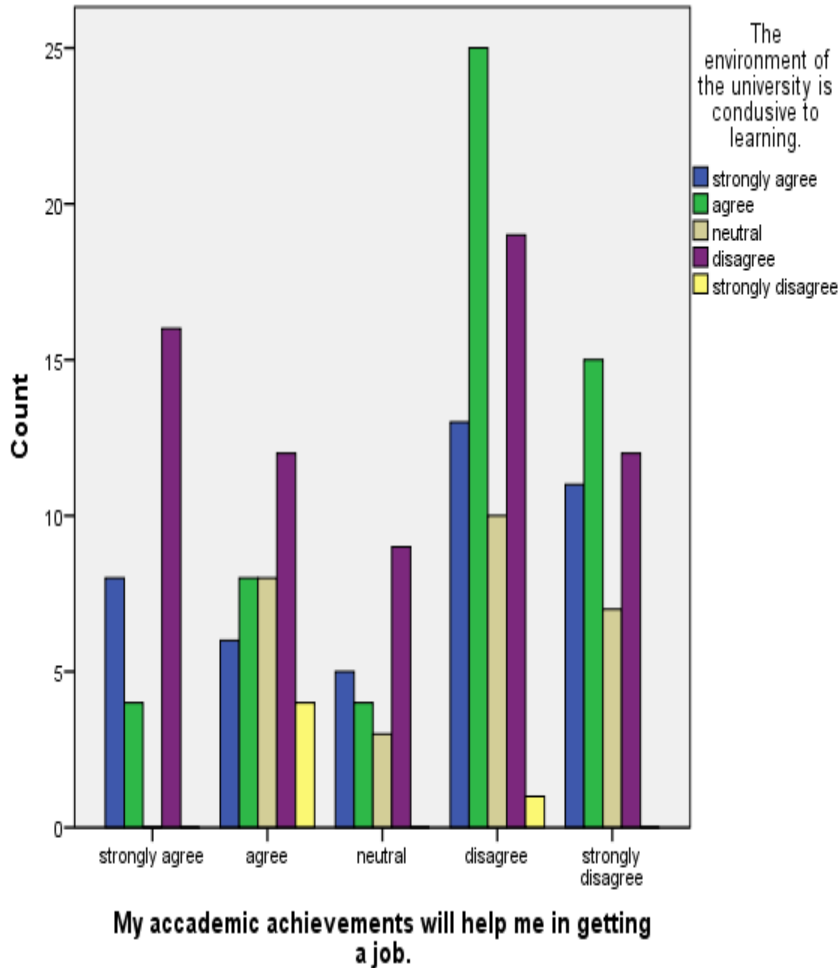


Interpretation:

From the above multiple bar chart we can see that in the first option (strongly agree) most of the students(20 out of 28) are saying that they strongly agree(blue) that teachers provide all reading materials, in the second option(agree) most of the students(22 out of 38) are saying that they agree(green) that teachers provide all reading materials, in the third option(neutral) most of the students(12 out of 21) are saying that they agree(green) that teachers provide all reading materials, in the fourth option(disagree) most of the students(32 out of 68) are saying that they agree(green) that teachers provide all reading materials and in the last option(strongly disagree) most of the students(22 out of 45) are saying that they agree(green) that teachers provide all reading materials out of 200 students.

The environment of the university is conducive to learning.

My academic achievements will help me in getting a job.		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	
strongly agree	Valid	strongly agree	8	28.6	28.6	28.6
		agree	4	14.3	14.3	42.9
		disagree	16	57.1	57.1	100.0
		Total	28	100.0	100.0	
agree	Valid	strongly agree	6	15.8	15.8	15.8
		agree	8	21.1	21.1	36.8
		neutral	8	21.1	21.1	57.9
		disagree	12	31.6	31.6	89.5
		strongly disagree	4	10.5	10.5	100.0
		Total	38	100.0	100.0	
neutral	Valid	strongly agree	5	23.8	23.8	23.8
		agree	4	19.0	19.0	42.9
		neutral	3	14.3	14.3	57.1
		disagree	9	42.9	42.9	100.0
		Total	21	100.0	100.0	
disagree	Valid	strongly agree	13	19.1	19.1	19.1
		agree	25	36.8	36.8	55.9
		neutral	10	14.7	14.7	70.6
		disagree	19	27.9	27.9	98.5
		strongly disagree	1	1.5	1.5	100.0
		Total	68	100.0	100.0	
strongly disagree	Valid	strongly agree	11	24.4	24.4	24.4
		agree	15	33.3	33.3	57.8
		neutral	7	15.6	15.6	73.3
		disagree	12	26.7	26.7	100.0
		Total	45	100.0	100.0	

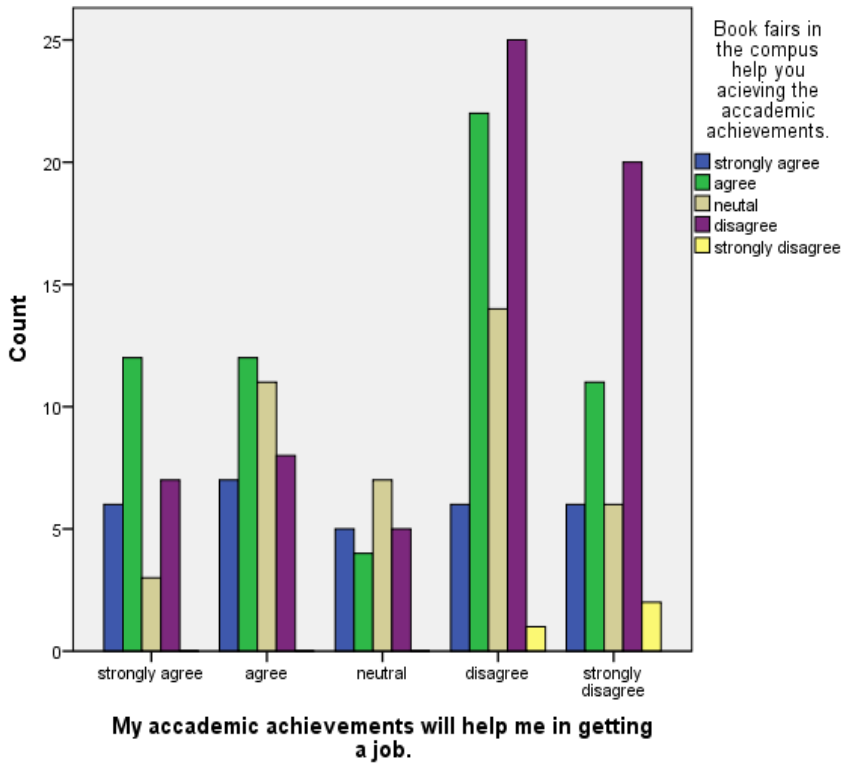


Interpretation:

From the above multiple bar chart we can see that in the first option (strongly agree) most of the students (16 out of 28) are saying that they disagree (purple) that the environment of university is conducive to learning, in the second option (agree) most of the students (12 out of 38) are saying that they disagree (purple) that the environment of university is conducive to learning, in the third option (neutral) most of the students (9 out of 21) are saying that they disagree (purple) that the environment of university is conducive to learning, in the fourth option (disagree) most of the students (25 out of 68) are saying that they agree (green) that the environment of university is conducive to learning and in the last option (strongly disagree) most of the students (15 out of 45) are saying that they agree (green) that the environment of university is conducive to learning out of 200 student.

Book fairs in the campus help you achieving the academic achievements.

My academic achievements will help me in getting a job.			Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	Valid	strongly agree	6	21.4	21.4	21.4
		agree	12	42.9	42.9	64.3
		neutral	3	10.7	10.7	75.0
		disagree	7	25.0	25.0	100.0
		Total	28	100.0	100.0	
agree	Valid	strongly agree	7	18.4	18.4	18.4
		agree	12	31.6	31.6	50.0
		neutral	11	28.9	28.9	78.9
		disagree	8	21.1	21.1	100.0
		Total	38	100.0	100.0	
neutral	Valid	strongly agree	5	23.8	23.8	23.8
		agree	4	19.0	19.0	42.9
		neutral	7	33.3	33.3	76.2
		disagree	5	23.8	23.8	100.0
		Total	21	100.0	100.0	
disagree	Valid	strongly agree	6	8.8	8.8	8.8
		agree	22	32.4	32.4	41.2
		neutral	14	20.6	20.6	61.8
		disagree	25	36.8	36.8	98.5
		strongly disagree	1	1.5	1.5	100.0
		Total	68	100.0	100.0	
strongly disagree	Valid	strongly agree	6	13.3	13.3	13.3
		agree	11	24.4	24.4	37.8
		neutral	6	13.3	13.3	51.1
		disagree	20	44.4	44.4	95.6
		strongly disagree	2	4.4	4.4	100.0
		Total	45	100.0	100.0	



Interpretation:

From the above multiple bar chart we can see that in the first option (strongly agree) most of the students (12 out of 28) are saying that they agree (green) that book fair in the campus help me achieving the academic achievement, in the second option (agree) most of the students (12 out of 38) are saying that they agree (green) that book fair in the campus help me achieving the academic achievement, in the third option (neutral) most of the students (7 out of 21) are saying that they neutral (whitish yellow) that book fair in the campus help me achieving the academic achievement, in the fourth option (disagree) most of the students (25 out of 68) are saying that they disagree (purple) that book fair in the campus help me achieving the academic achievement and in the last option (strongly disagree) most of the students (20 out of 45) are saying that they disagree (purple) that book fair in the campus help me achieving the academic achievement out of 200 students.

Recommendations:

- The present study suggests that the student's achievements are concern more with the external factors and learners should be given maximum opportunities of scholarships and other incentives to study.
- The present study also suggests that students need proper counseling in the perspective of their career as universities lack proper counseling sessions.
- The learners complain about the overall environment of the campus also needs attention from the higher authorities.

Conclusions:

The students or young disciples of any nation are the future of the states. Pakistan has one of such man power potentials which most of the nations actually lack in true sense. The need of the hour is to channelize these young generations in proper direction. For this purpose, the best forums in the world are the educational institutions. The present study is carried out while keeping the rationale in mind that what are the hindrances and challenges which young generation feels in the way of their future career. The present study took internal and external factors which influence student's achievements and it was asked by the students to comment on these factors and their (students) opinion was sought so that their vice could heard and it should be analyzed that what students themselves think are issue which need to be addressed. The present study found that generally perceived idea that gender is a hurdle in obtaining good career, a complete false premise rather most of the female students gave their opinion that gender was not an issue in acquiring education or finding good career. Further it was suggested by the students that family income and family location is more problematic as this will provide good educational background and psychological strength to students if they have been in well-off families and in urban areas.

The present study concludes that the students suggest their present and future achievements are also influenced by the internal factors i.e. teacher's performance in the class, provision of reading material, book fairs, career counseling sessions and social media are key factors which give positive and fruitful results while the overall environment is not that much conducive (see above given tables and charts). The last factor, mostly by students has taken as political activities which they think creates problems especially when there are strikes and classes are disrupted. The young students of Balochistan University are very optimistic about their

future and they are making efforts for this purpose and one is hopeful that they will get what they wish.

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