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A suggested paradigm for post-Graduate Studies in Education in the light of the Strategy of Higher Education System Development

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To Attain the Master Degree In Education
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Introduction:

Higher education, in general, and university education, in particular, receives a great attention in Egypt and in the world as a whole because it contributes to the preparation of human forces that are able to think critically and assume the responsibility of scientific life.

Post graduate studies are considered the top of higher education, so they receive the same importance as higher education. This importance is due to the effectiveness of post graduate studies in (1) assuring the developmental role of university, (2) satisfying society needs in the light of the present and the future, and (3) developing a political and social awareness for the identity of society.

Hence, educational research as an important part of post graduate studies is considered a basis for the human development in society, and a necessary element for developing education, solving its problems and providing the necessary information for decision makers and educational planners. Consequently, many institutions, such as faculties of education, assume the responsibility of educational research in Egypt. But the policy of change and development in recent years requires universities to reconsider post graduate studies for coping with international development.

As a result, many conferences are set up for developing post graduate studies and scientific research. Some of these conferences are The National Conference of Higher Education, in February 2000, which concludes to designing a strategy implied twenty-five projects for developing post graduate studies. But eleven projects are selected to be applied. These projects are gathered into six ones for the period of 2002 to 2007. These projects are:

1. Egyptian Technological Faculties Enhancement Project (ETCP).
2. Faculty and Leadership Development Project (FLDP).
3. Information and Communication Technology Project (ICTP).
4. Quality Assurance and Accreditation Project (QAAP).

**Problem of the Study:**

It was noticed that post graduate studies suffered from some problems that decreased their effectiveness. So, many studies recommended the necessity of reviewing post graduate studies programs in faculties of education and considering the quantity and quality of courses prepared by the educational researchers.

Furthermore, some studies referred to some shortage in the research role of university as follows:
1. The decrease of the research abilities of post graduate students.
2. The absence of a clear plan of objectives inside each university, in addition to the poor coordination among universities in determining the research topics.
3. The disintegration between post graduate studies programs and development problems inside society.

Accordingly, there is a necessary need for a great and organized effort to develop post graduate studies in an attempt to achieve society aims of development. There is a need for a study to develop post graduate studies in education in the light of the strategy of developing higher education system.

Hence, the problem of the present study can be stated in the following questions:
1. What is the present actuality of post graduate studies in education?
2. What is the nature of the strategy of developing higher education system?
3. What is the role of information technology in supporting post graduate studies and educational research?
4. What is the suggested paradigm for post graduate studies in education in the light of the strategy of developing higher education system?
Aims of the Study:

The present study aims at:
1. Recognizing the present actuality of post graduate studies in education.
2. Explaining the basic features of the strategy of developing higher education system.
3. Recognizing the role of information technology in supporting post graduate studies and educational research in particular.
4. Putting a suggested paradigm for post graduate studies in education in the light of the strategy of developing higher education system.

Significance of the Study:

The significance of the present study lies in:
1. Increasing the effectiveness of post graduate studies in faculties of education because it is the basic source for preparing and developing the abilities of teaching staff and researchers.
2. Increasing the number of beneficiary people and especially:
   a. Teaching staff and researchers in faculties of education.
   b. Faculties of education.
   c. Educational planners and decision makers.

Design of the Study:

The present study makes use of the descriptive method because it is more appropriate for the nature of study.

Instruments of the Study:

The present study uses a questionnaire as an instrument for collecting data and recognizing the opinions of study subjects.
Sample of the Study:

It is a random sample which is consisted of (1) teaching staff in the educational departments and (2) post graduate students (Diploma, M.A., and Ph.D.) at faculties of education.

Limitations of the Study:

1. Geographic Limitations:
   a. Damietta Faculty of Education, Mansoura University.
   b. Faculty of Education, Mansoura University.
   c. Port-Said Faculty of Education, Suiez Canal University.
   d. Elmonofya Faculty of Education, Elmonofya University.
   e. Faculty of Education, Ain Shams University.

2. Objective Limitations:

   The present study is limited to developing post graduate studies in education in the light of the strategy of developing higher education system.

Procedures of the Study:

To answer the study questions, the researcher follows these steps: 

First: The researcher answers the first question " What is the present actuality of post graduate studies in education?" through:

1. The theoretical framework:
   a. The second chapter (University education and the basics of post graduate studies), and
   b. The third chapter (The actuality of educational research and post graduate studies at faculties of education in Egypt).

2. The field study:
   a. The first part of the three questionnaires, and
b. The second part of the two questionnaires introduced to Diploma, M.A., and Ph.D. students.

**Second:** The researcher answers the second question "What is the nature of the strategy of developing higher education system?" through the theoretical framework: The fifth chapter (Post graduate studies and the strategy of developing higher education system).

**Third:** The researcher answers the third question "What is the role of information technology in supporting post graduate studies and educational research?" through the theoretical framework: The fourth chapter (Information technology and its role in supporting post graduate studies and educational research).

**Fourth:** The researcher answers the fourth question "What is the suggested paradigm for post graduate studies in education in the light of the strategy of developing higher education system?" through:
1. The theoretical framework: The fifth chapter (Post graduate studies and the strategy of developing higher education system).
2. The field study:
   a. The first part of the questionnaire directed to M.A. and Ph.D. students.
   b. The second part of the questionnaire directed to teaching staff.

**Results of the Study:**

The present study concludes to putting a suggested paradigm for developing post graduate studies at faculties of education, which aims at (1) presenting new ideas and trends contributed to the development of post graduate studies at faculties of education, and (2) putting some working mechanisms for helping faculties of education select the best advanced sources for developing post graduate studies. This suggested paradigm includes the following elements:
1. The concept of "paradigm": Its translation and content.
2. The aims of the suggested paradigm.
3. The requirements behind the suggested paradigm.
4. The dimensions of the suggested paradigm.

**Recommendations of the Study:**

The recommendations of the present study can be summarized as follows:

1. Making use of the information technology in enriching the educational research and supporting the researchers with the international studies for motivating their efforts toward the serious educational research according to the advanced international experiences.

2. Providing the administrators of post graduate studies with several training sessions in the human relationships and in the easiest ways for carrying out the internal laws and regulations without any complexity.

3. Setting up a centre for educational information equipped with the advanced recalling information technology in all the educational research institutions in Egypt in an attempt to achieve the interaction between the educational research results and the responsibles for conducting the educational research in Egypt, and to acquaint researchers with the international innovations in the field of educational research.

4. Subjecting the educational research results to discussion in all communities of educational researchers, teachers, parents, and professionals in an attempt to modify in the light of their opinions.

5. Holding seminar sessions weekly and paving the way for an appropriate scientific climate in an attempt to encourage researchers to attend and benefit regularly.

6. Setting up some communication channels between the responsibles for conducting the educational research and the public opinion – especially teachers, students, the educational planners – in an attempt to carry out the results and recommendations of educational research.

7. Publishing diploma courses on line.

8. Holding annual meetings between teaching staff at faculties of education and the perfect teachers for discussing the most important problems that hinder
developing the educational process, and designing the appropriate training programs for solving these problems.