

CURRENT STRENGTHS, CHALLENGES AND POLICY OPTIONS FOR DOCTORAL EDUCATION IN KENYA

By

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INTRODUCTION

- Evolution of university education
- Public universities are 23 and private ones 34 private
- Institutions offering doctorate degrees are 15 public and 7 private
- November 2018 deadline to '*doctoratize*' faculty in all universities
- Government allocates 3.07 per cent of total government expenditure and 20 per cent of total education budget

Quality framework

- External and internal quality assurance mechanism
- Universities act 2012
- Commission for university education
- University regulations and standards
- Universities fund board

Objectives of doctoral education

- Enhance knowledge *at the most advanced frontier* of the discipline or field of study
- Provide skills to *Solve critical problems* in research and/or innovation
- impart skills to *Extend and redefine* existing knowledge
- instill substantial authority, innovation, autonomy, scholarly and *professional integrity*
- sustained commitment to the *development of new ideas or processes* at the forefront of a discipline or field of study.

Typology and admission criterion

- Doctor of Philosophy degree programmes
- Professional doctoral degrees
- For admission candidates be holders of a relevant **academic master's** degree.

Structure of doctoral degree

- *structure of a doctoral degree programme shall demonstrate the weighting of courses in relation to coursework and thesis/dissertation*
- *determination of course weighting is left to the discretion of the individual institution*
- *Research constitutes not less than two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the entire programme structure*
- *Length of thesis/dissertation of a doctoral programme is normally at least 50,000 words*
- *a candidate normally shows proof of acceptance for publication of at least two (2) papers in refereed journals before award of doctorate*
- *Entire doctoral programme lasts no less than three years*

Management of the doctoral process

- Institutional discretion – the language, word length and format
- **Components** include abstract, introduction, literature review, methodology, presentation of results, discussions, conclusion, references/bibliography and appendices
- thesis/dissertation **proposal** is presented to a faculty/school forum for interrogation and guidance prior to the research work
- A student's thesis/dissertation is **supervised** by at least **two academic staff**
- thesis/dissertation shall be **internally and externally examined**

Management of the doctoral process...ctd

- *An oral presentation of the thesis/dissertation*
- *final thesis/dissertation submitted in line with the postgraduate regulations of the university*
- *Each university institutes mechanisms to curb plagiarism*

FINANCING OF DOCTORAL EDUCATION IN KENYA

- Level and source of funding is critical to quality of research output
- Allocating a minimum of 2% of its operational budget to research
- Inadequate funding
- Scholarships,
- Research grants,
- Loans from the Higher education loans board and
- Self-sponsorship

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DOCTORAL EDUCATION

- Kenya Education Network Trust (KENET) created in 1999
- Graduate schools
- Library services are available as a standard requirement
- Laboratories
- Agricultural field farms
- School and departmental committees

Degree programmes offered in Kenyan Universities

Type of university	Bachelors	Masters	PhD	Other Doctorate	Total
Public	1020	713	428	4	2165
Private	304	200	14	2	520
Total	1324	913	442	6	2685
%	49.32	34	16.46	0.22	100

Student enrolments in Kenyan universities as of May 2015

TYPE OF UNIVERSITY	BACHELOR'S	MASTER'S	DOCTORATE	POT GRAD DIP
Public universities	315342	33400	3227	335
Public constituent colleges	13759	181	16	0
Private universities	42333	4843	480	18
Private (Letter of Interim Authority)	2960	389	0	0
Private constituent Colleges	2124	152	18	18
Private Registered colleges	1006	51	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>377524</i>	<i>39016</i>	<i>3741</i>	<i>371</i>
<i>As % of total Enrolment</i>	<i>89.64</i>	<i>9.26</i>	<i>1.01</i>	<i>0.09</i>

Academic output at the University of Nairobi

YEAR	UNDER GRAD	MASTER'S	PhD	OTHER DOCTORATE
2013	3062	815	24	0
2012	2948	749	22	0
2011	5633	2558	61	0
2010	5324	2019	39	0
2007	2524	691	17	0
1999	2112	239	20	0
1996	2657	350	18	0
1994	3263	271	14	1
TOTAL	27523	7692	215	1

Academic output at Kenyatta University

YEAR		UNDER GRAD	MASTER'S	PhD
	2015*	3056	550	59
	2014	6522	1020	105
	2013	7029	992	63
	2012*	1541	391	26
	2011	4044	715	43
	2010	3878	489	44
	TOTAL	26070	4157	340
	<i>As % of graduands</i>	<i>85.29</i>	<i>13.6</i>	<i>1.11</i>

Strengths

- Strong quality assurance and regulatory framework both external and internal
- Sound ICT policy
- Modernized library services
- Research ethics upheld
- Availability of approved doctoral programmes

Challenges

- Inadequate funding
- Inadequate qualified personnel to supervise doctoral programmes
- Shortage of infrastructure in terms of science laboratories
- Unclear focus on doctoral education
- Inadequate ICT infrastructure
- Limited of access to current textbooks
- Unclear admissions criteria

Policy options

- Regulate award of scholarships and grants from a centralized point
- Create incentives that reward creativity & innovation
- Redefine goals and targets for doctoral education,
- Declare universities internet hot spots to enhance access to free Wi-Fi
- Invest in development of serious science research laboratories
- Clarify scope of executive masters to avoid misuse of projects

The end

Thank you

For

Your time