



Rankings: A Pakistani Perspective





Context of Pakistan

- HEC established 2002
 - The Higher Education Commission will facilitate Institutions of Higher Learning to serve as an Engine for the Socio-Economic Development of Pakistan
 - Responsible for Policy, Standards, Accreditation, Research Support, Scholarships, Statistics, Funding --- Everything!
- Strategic Focus
 - Access (2.6% in 2002)
 - Quality (Research, Academic System, Accred.)
 - Relevance (Link to Community & Economy)

2002: State of Higher Education

Item	Number
Number of Universities ranked (QS) in top 600 Universities of the World	0
New Institutions Established	71
Enrollment	276,274
Number of PhD Scholarships	Less than 1,500
Total PhD Output	3321



Preliminary Questions

- Should there be Ranking?
- Who should conduct Rankings?
- Is Institutional Ranking Fair?
- Does Institutional Ranking provide useful information?



Preliminary Response

- Conduct Rankings: Decision of PM!
- No entity willing to conduct rankings
 - Therefore HEC must do it, by default!
- Rankings cannot be absolutely fair
 - Compare “Similar” Institutions
 - Do not include “New” Institutions
- Enormous Public Interest in Ranking
 - Most visited Web Page of HEC



Secondary Questions: Data

- Which Ranking model is best and most applicable for Pakistan?
- Which data is to be used for ranking?
- What is the source of the data and its reliability?
- Weightage of factors included in ranking?
- How important is the size of the Institution?
- Employer and Graduate Perception data?
- Peer evaluation data?



Ranking Models

- Shanghai Jiao Tong's Academic Ranking of World Universities
 - Focuses exclusively on research output and citation impact
- Webometrics Ranking of World Universities
 - Based on a composite indicator of 1) volume of the Web contents and the visibility and 2) impact of these web publications
- World University Rankings compiled by the Times Higher Education Magazine
 - Based on composite scores that aggregate weighted indicators, reputational surveys are main source of information.
- QS University Rankings
 - Composite score focusing on Academic peer review, Faculty student ratio and Citations per faculty



Ranking Alternates

- Baldrige System of HEIs rating
- Academic Audit based Rating of HEIs (AUQA-Australia)
- British HEIs rating system (QAA-UK)
- Institutional Performance Review system (Scottish-QAA)



Concerns

- Availability and completeness of the data to be used for ranking
- Authenticity of the data
- Variance across ranking criteria used globally
- Balance between quantitative and qualitative aspects (difficult to collect) in the ranking criteria



Ranking Experience: A Pakistani Context

- Data Collected by HEC
 - Enormously difficult exercise when done for the “First” Time, i.e. collection of baseline data
 - No other alternative but to do it oneself
- No “Third Party” survey data available
 - Employer, Peer and graduate perception survey ignored since not available
 - Lack of trust in “Qualitative” Information



Ranking Criteria (2006)



Ranking of Institutions in Pakistan

- In 2004, ranking criteria was developed as one of the QA initiatives.
 - Comparative study of international practices
 - Ranking exercise carried out for the first time in Pakistan in 2006 based on data from FY 02-04
 - New Universities and Degree Awarding Institutes were excluded
- Clustering of universities under similar category
 - General Universities
 - Engineering Universities
 - Agriculture Universities
 - Business & IT Institutions
 - Medical Universities



Tertiary Questions: Policy

- Support for Higher Education @ Govt. Level
 - Ranking Data for support
- Policy Driven Ranking
 - Quality Assurance
 - Research
 - Innovation

Quality Assurance

	UGC in 2002	HEC in 2011
Ranking of Universities	Not Available	Available
Quality Enhancement Cells	0	84
Accreditation Councils	7	11
Quality Assurance Agency	None	Established
Approved Journal Criteria	None	Notified
Approved Journals	0	164
Tenure Track Faculty	0	1002
MPhil/PhD Award Criteria	Varied	Standardized

ICT @ Universities

	UGC in 2002	HEC in 2011
Pakistan Education & Research Network		
• No. of HEIs connected	16	106
• Max. HEI internet bandwidth	128 Kbps	310 Mbps
• Total HEI internet bandwidth	8 Mbps	6,240 Mbps
Video Conferencing		
• No. of HEIs provided facility	Nil	75
• No. of interactive events	Nil	810+
Campus Management Solution		
• No. of HEIs with facility	Nil	8
• No. of students benefitting	Nil	50,000
• Automated Modules	Nil	9/ 36

Research & Development

Program	UGC No. of Cases	HEC No. of Cases
National Research Program for Universities	32	923
Travel Grant to Teacher / Scholar	-	5047
Seminars / Conferences / Grants	-	656
Pak-US Joint Academic and Research program	-	54
Access to Scientific Instrumentation	-	2184
Grants for Maintenance of Scientific equipment	-	196



Ranking: Aftermath

- Definitely Controversial
 - No matter what you do “It will be wrong!”
 - Crucial to make mistakes → and learn
- Shift to Evidence Based “Claims”
- Enhanced impact on Govt. Policy
- Improved International Ranking Competitiveness
- One Ranking is not enough
- Shift to Policy Driven Ranking
 - Research Output Ranking

HEC: Impact at a Glance

	UGC 1947-2002	HEC 2002-2011
Number of Universities ranked (QS) in top 600 Universities of the World	0	5
New Institutions Established	71	66
Enrollment	276,274	803,507
Number of PhD Scholarships	Less than 1,500	More than 8,000
Total PhD Output	3321	3658



Rankings: Future

- Rankings are a reality. We have to live with them
- More types of ranking to address
 - I: User requirements
 - Program Ranking
 - II: Policy Objectives
 - QEC Rankings
 - Research Rankings
- Ranking link to Funding (Very Carefully)



Thank You

