Chapter 9

Postgraduate Student Research Realities in Uganda

Joseph Ssenyonga
University of Konstanz, Germany

Proscovia B. Nakiganda
Genesis (Quinnipiac Valley Center), USA

ABSTRACT

Globally, there is a high quest for graduate education with many prospective students aspiring to attain advanced qualifications to obtain a better career path and higher income. Besides, postgraduate education fosters skills development. However, in Uganda, many students enroll in different graduate programs but fail to complete them in the stipulated timeframe. Furthermore, most of the master’s students tend to successfully finish their first year which basically has the coursework component yet fail to complete the second year that has the research component. Doctoral students make little progress when it comes to their research. The authors will examine general research preparation, writing, and methodology skills that are critical to graduate studies and research. With the necessary support, mentoring, and planning, graduate research can be made a better process for students and supervisors.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-0264-8.ch009

Copyright © 2020, IGI Global. Copying or distributing in print or electronic forms without written permission of IGI Global is prohibited.
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, we shall interrogate the issues associated with graduate research in Uganda and provide insights on how supervisors and students can learn from best research practices and advice so that both can profit from the research experience and make it fruitful. These will be explored with a focus on selected Ugandan universities.

Overview of Higher Education, Postgraduate Enrollment and Completion Rates

Investing in postgraduate education is associated with skills acquisition, better pay, or a new job. Research shows that postgraduate education imparts skills including critical thinking, innovation, decision making and problem-solving, that are relevant to the real-world situation (Oluwajodu, Blaauw, Greyling, & Kleynhans, 2015; Serrano, Llamazares, & Otamendi, 2015). Besides employable postgraduates possess skills including discipline-specific skills, generic skills like teamwork and numeracy, self-management skills for example work-life balance, and career building necessary to traverse and progress in the world of work (Bridgstock, 2009).

Likewise, postgraduate training enables students to concurrently attained both theoretical and practical knowledge (Jonck, 2014). For instance, postgraduate students attain practical experience when they assist in the teaching at universities and at times they have hours of supervised practicum. No wonder there is an increase in the number of skilled and knowledgeable work-ready postgraduates (Núñez & Livanos, 2010) who can obtain and maintain work besides contributing to national development.

Globally there is an increase in student enrollment in higher education especially in North America, Europe, the Asia-Pacific region (Mok, 2016). The U.S, Japan, and Western Europe registered not only over 50% tertiary education enrollment but also above 30% graduation quotas. However, Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest participation rate and graduation rates in higher education compared to other regions in the world (Teichler, 2001).

With all the anticipated outcomes of postgraduate education, there is a need to take a close look at the actual graduate education process with respect to Uganda a country that has 51 universities (17.6% public) that admit students to various postgraduate programs (National Council for Higher Education, 2018). Tertiary education enrollment at Ugandan universities was relatively low at 4% coupled with lower completion rates (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2017).
Related Content

Mixed Method Research: A Concept
[www.igi-global.com/chapter/mixed-method-research/147764?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/chapter/mixed-method-research/147764?camid=4v1a)

Lateral Load Performance Analysis of Dhajji Dewari Using Different Infills
[www.igi-global.com/article/lateral-load-performance-analysis-of-dhajji-dewari-using-different-infills/204387?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/article/lateral-load-performance-analysis-of-dhajji-dewari-using-different-infills/204387?camid=4v1a)

Using Economic Decision-Making Tools in Continuous Improvement Environments: How They Overlap
[www.igi-global.com/article/using-economic-decision-making-tools-in-continuous-improvement-environments/243667?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/article/using-economic-decision-making-tools-in-continuous-improvement-environments/243667?camid=4v1a)
Assessment of Fuzzy Logic Radioisotopic Pattern Identifier on Gamma-Ray Signals with Application to Security
www.igi-global.com/chapter/assessment-of-fuzzy-logic-radioisotopic-pattern-identifier-on-gamma-ray-signals-with-application-to-security/124539?camid=4v1a