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Ministry of Higher Education
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The Problems of Graduate Studies for Female Students at Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University and Proposed Solutions to Them

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Masters Degree in the Education with specialization
in Education Principles**

By

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Thesis Abstract

This research is entitled: The Problems of Graduate Studies for Female Students at Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University and Proposed Solutions to Them

This research aims to identify the problems of graduate studies for female students at the Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University, through the following sub-objectives:

- A- to identify the organizational and administrative problems;
- B- to identify the problems of curriculum and teaching methods;
- C- to identify the female students' personal problems;
- D- to identify the problems of scientific supervision;
- E- to identify the problems of selecting topics for research;
- F- to identify the problems of conducting readings and the search for scientific material;
- G- to identify the problems of application and field research;
- H- to identify the problems relating to defense of theses;
- I- to put forward solutions for addressing the problems mentioned in order to increase the effectiveness of graduate studies for female students at Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh.

To achieve the objectives of the research, the researcher used the descriptive analytical method depending on the questionnaire as the main research tool, making use of the conceptual framework's content of information and the findings of previous studies. The questionnaire included eight axes of (74) items which have been applied to the research sample members being (32) graduate female student.

To deal with the data statistically, the researcher used the frequencies and percentage. The research has been conducted during the academic year 1427 / 1428 AH.

The most prominent findings of the study include:

The First Axis: Administrative and Organizational Problems:

- 1- Graduate female students suffer from a lack of effective academic guidance to them;
- 2- No manual of academic guidance and study syllabus statement are available to female students at the beginning of each semester;

- 3- The comprehensive test is considered the most important obstacles to female students wishing to register for the PhD. Degree;
- 4- The TOEFL test is one of the biggest obstacles for female students wishing to register for the PhD programs;
- 5- Lack of interest of Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University in availing opportunities for full-time graduate studies for female students

The Second Axis: Problems of Curriculum and Teaching Methods:

- 1- Limited use of the faculty members of teaching aids
- 2- CCTV is of little benefit and are not conducive to the interaction between graduate female students and professors due to their low quality and weakness capabilities

The Third Axis: personal problems of female students:

- 1- Parents discomfort for late returning to home after the lectures
- 2- Predominance of the spirit of competition among female students has impacted the level of cooperation among them
- 3- Overlooking the study circumstances of the female student by her work supervisor

The Fourth Axis: The problems of scientific supervision:

- 1- Lack of female faculty members to take over supervision of female students' theses
- 2- The student does not have the right to choose or voice her opinion on the supervisor
- 3- The large number of messages that are supervised by the supervisor reduces the speed of finalizing the female student thesis
- 4- Difficulty for the female students of communicating with their supervisor especially male professors

The Fifth Axis: The problems of selecting topics for research:

- 1- The absence of educational research map, whether at the level of the Kingdom or the Arab world
- 2- The limited availability of periodicals, references or documents relevant to research subjects in university libraries
- 3- Deferring the selection of the research topic until the completion of all courses

- 4- The lack of financial or moral incentives to encourage outstanding researches

The Sixth Axis: The problems of conducting readings and the search for scientific material

- 1- Limited availability of books that can be borrowed from the college's library leading to increasing financial burdens out of buying or photocopying them from outside the library
- 2- Limited attendance by graduate female students to theses defense and scientific conferences which lead to lack of access to them
- 3- setting number limits for the papers that can be photographed of the references in some university libraries may cause overburden female students and oblige them to frequent such libraries
- 4- Limited availability of time and for reading and frequenting libraries especially for female students in the light of forbidding gender mixing
- 5- Shortness of duration for borrowed materials from the college library and the possibility of making use of them
- 6- Shortness of time allotted for the female student at some government libraries
- 7- Limited use of modern technology (computer) by some libraries

The Seventh Axis: The problems of application and field research

- 1- Difficulty of communicating with the research sample members
- 2- Suffering from the lack of response from the research sample to the field study
- 3- loss of many forms of research tools during the field application

The Eighth Axis: problems relating to defense of theses

- 1- Lack of commitment by some female students in responding to and introducing of the amendments proposed by the thesis examination committee
- 2- The female student is not given adequate opportunity to respond to negative remarks on her study
- 3- Tense fear of the student during the thesis defense
- 4- Inadequacy of the place allocated for defending and presenting the thesis