

# EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES IN ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION FIELDS IN THE LIGHT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA'S TENTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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**ABSTRACT** *The study aims to obtaining a list of educational research priorities in administration and planning for the higher education fields in the light of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's tenth development plan. The study employs the descriptive methodology and the Delphi Method by adopting two questionnaires in two independent rounds. The first round questionnaire included 60 research priorities, whereas the second round questionnaire included 68 research priorities falling under three higher education fields outlined in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's tenth development plan, namely the field of giving public universities administrative and financial autonomy and acting towards adopting the new universities system; the field of harmonization the higher education outputs with the requirements of the labor market, and the field of absorbing the outcomes of external scholarships in the labor market. The study population included experts who are PhD holders specializing in administration and educational planning at the universities and at the public sectors that relate to higher education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The study population included 28 experts and 21 experts in the first round and the second round respectively. The study identified a list of research priorities in administration and educational planning for higher education fields in the light of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's tenth development plan, The number of research priorities agreed upon as important by study experts amounted to 60 research priorities distributed among the fields as follows: First is the field of giving public universities administrative and financial autonomy and acting towards adopting the new universities system. The number of priorities that researchers agreed upon amounted to 18 with a rate of agreement ranging from 75.2 % to 91.4 %. Second is the field of harmonization the higher education outputs with the requirements of the labor market. The number of priorities that researchers agreed upon amounted to 27 with a rate of agreement ranging from 75.2 % to 98 %. Third is the field of absorbing the outcomes of external scholarships in the labor market. The number of priorities that researchers agreed upon amounted to 15 with a rate of agreement ranging from 77.1 % to 94.2 %. Based on the above mentioned results, the study presents several recommendations, notably: Saudi universities should adopt the research priorities that the study arrived at and give them priority in accepting research topics. The departments of administration and educational planning in Saudi universities should issue a guide that includes the research priorities arrived at by the study to serve as a reference for researchers for selecting their research topics. The importance of drawing a research map for research priorities in administration and educational planning for higher education fields in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.*

**Key word:** educational research priorities, administration and planning, higher education, Saudi Arabia's tenth development plan.