Research Article

Investigating and analyzing the situation of the talented students of shahid beheshti university of medical sciences: a qualitative study

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Article Info

Abstract

In this era, investing in human resources, especially the talented, is specifically important because they have high potential, creativity and initiative to advance science.so the present study was conducted to investigate the situation of the talented students at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. The present study is a qualitative research of content analysis type with a conventional approach. Participants included talented students who were selected by targeted sampling method in2019. Data collection was performed using in-depth and semi-structured individual interviews. From the findings of this study, four main themes were obtained,which include poor educational situation, research problems, inappropriate welfare services and weakness in performing cultural affairs. The results of the present study showed that the problems of the talented students in the fields of education, research and welfare are more than before. Therefore, it is suggested that the authorities and planners pay more attention to meet the needs of this group of students.

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Introduction

In this era, investing in human resources, especially the talented, is specifically important because they have high potential, creativity and initiative to advance science (Nikneshan et al. 2010 & Maker, 1982). A highly talented person is a person with a potential of elitism, however, has not yet reached that condition and requires a process of guidance and empowerment to gain expertise and ultimately influence the environment (Renzulli, 2000). In fact, human resources with the potential of elitism have capabilities beyond the general level of capabilities and mainly have major potential capabilities (Nazemi et al. 2012) that can move towards elitism in appropriate conditions.

According to the results of the study other., talent management can lead to individual and organizational excellence as the highest level of performance in universities (Nazaripour et al. 2017). Therefore, curricula and the environment of universities should be such that they do not hinder the growth and flourishing of their talents and creativity (Nikneshan et al. 2010 & Maker, 1982). Identifying the talented in the education system based on correct and scientific criteria can be the first step in developing an appropriate policy plan. On the other hand, the needs, interests and

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problems of these people must be carefully identified. So that specialists can develop an appropriate plan for their flourishing and ability in scientific and academic fields so that talented people can express their utmost abilities (Cantu,1998).

Most people who have worked in the field of the talented do not consider ability alone enough for success in creative programs, but consider other factors such as motivation, lack of problems, and intellectual preoccupations and appropriate planning of educational institutions as highly effective (Csikszentmihalyi, 1996). According to the report of the Commission of the Talented Education of America, a highly talented person is a person who, because of his prominent abilities, has high performance capabilities and as a result needs different educational and service programs to be able to appropriately serve the society. Therefore, programs related to the talented in universities must identify all the talented and abilities of individuals and try empowering them, which requires comprehensive planning. In the study by Nasrabadi & Nowruzi (2006), conducted to investigate the level of satisfaction of elite students of the University of Isfahan with educational components, there was a gap between the current situation and the desired. In the study by Nikneshan et al. (2010). in Isfahan also, the talented students were dissatisfied with educational situation.

Statement of the Problem

Also, according to the searches done, most of the studies conducted in our country, Iran, were quantitative and slightly focused on investigating the level of satisfaction, problems and obstacles of talented students. Given the importance, role and specific position of the talented in various fields, especially science production, elite management is essential so that today it has become a very important and key issue in the field of human resources (Ghaffari et al. 2017). On the other hand, in order to identify and eliminate other problems and obstacles of talents in all fields of science and research, education and culture to facilitate the path in universities and prevent the escape of talents (brain drain), create a suitable for, which is a prerequisite for the 2025 horizon in the Iran, therefore, it is necessary to identify and investigate the current situation of students to help overcome obstacles.

The Research Significance

According to the appropriate nature of the current qualitative study in comparison with quantitative studies in explaining the situation of this group of special students (talents) can be useful in reducing the existing problems and challenges. It can also help colleges, faculty, and policymakers plan and improve the quality of service for gifted students.

The Research Terms

Talent: a set of including skills, knowledge and ability to grow and develop that comes to talent through systematic and gradual training (Tannenbaum, 2000).

Concept analysis: Concept analysis is a precise and formal process that uses it to try to identify, clarify and define an abstract concept and distinguish it from similar concepts (Morse et al. 1996).

Literature Review

A review of the literature shows that almost all gifted students suffer from a variety of problems. In Cheraghi et al (2019) study, the results showed that poor teaching methods and lack of educational resources were the most important educational problems. Poor management and lack of research budget were the most important research problems. For students, improving the teaching situation and organizing human resource management are the most important priorities for retaining elite forces. In another study by Mohammadi et al. (2014), The findings indicate that 17.7% of students agree that the facilities regulations of talented students are clear and without any defects, and 39% disagreed. About the implementation of the current related regulations, 43.1% disagree and 11% are in favor of implementing regulations by the university. The majority of students believe that the approved regulations do not apply.54.1% also believe that the experts and supervisors do not have enough information about related regulations. 57.2% believe that it is necessary to change some options of the current regulation. The results of current study that are consistent with the results of domestic and International studies, emphasize the importance of paying special attention to the expectations and demands of gifted
and talented students.

The Research Objectives and Questions

This study aims to Investigating and Analyzing the Situation of educational, research, welfare and cultural services of talented students.
The research questions are as follows:

Preliminary questions:

According to which section of the Talents Regulations were you selected as a Talent Student?

Main questions:
- ➢ How do you evaluate the quality of education during your studies?
- ➢ Explain about your research activity during your studies?
- ➢ What do you think about the research activities offered by the university?
- ➢ In your opinion, what is it like to provide welfare service facilities to talented students?
- ➢ Explain about your cultural status (participation in religious ceremonies, political participation and membership in institutions and associations, etc.)?
- ➢ What are your expectations as a talent student?

Final questions:
- ➢ What suggestions do you have for improving the quality of services provided to talented students?
- ➢ Do you think there is another issue that should have been raised?

Methods

Research Model

This study is a qualitative research of content analysis type with a conventional approach that was conducted in 2019 in order to investigate and analyze the situation of the talented students of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences.

Population & Sample of the Study

Participants included undergraduate, graduate, Doctor of Medicine and Ph.D students who were selected using a targeted sampling method. The interviews were conducted in a deep and semi-structured manner with 16 students individually and continued until data saturation. It was approved by the University Ethics Committee (IR.SBMU.RETECH.REC.1397.1057). After obtaining permission from the authorities, and informing by the researcher, through invitations containing an explanation of the purpose of the study and a request to participate in the research, the students who wished to participate in the study were asked to determine a time for the interview. Also, coding was used to keep the name of the participants confidential.

Data Collection Procedure

The interviews started with an open question and then other questions were asked based on the interviews guide and the participants' answers, so that the general question of the research included "How is the situation of the talented students of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences?" The focus of the interview was on the quality of services provided to the talented students. Also, if necessary, in continue exploratory questions such as "Can you explain more" or "When you say ..., what do you mean?" were asked. At the end of the interview, the participant was asked to state if there was any talk left. Each interview lasted from 25-30 minutes. Interviews were recorded with the permission of the participants and then were transcribed on paper word by word. Field notes were also used. In order to determine data credibility, continuous examination of the data, data analysis simultaneous with collecting them, member check, examining data analysis process by several qualitative research researchers and continuous and long-term conflict with data were used.

Data Analysis

Content analysis was based on Graneheim & Lundman model. In this model, after specifying the unit of analysis in the field, semantic units are extracted from the field which after reduction, compression and summarization, the compressed semantic units are identified based on which they are coded and then the codes are assigned. In the simultaneous and continuous comparison of codes and their similarities and differences, sub-theme and themes and finally the main themes are created (9).

Results and Discussion

The mean age of the participants was 30 years. From the data analysis of the present study, four main themes were obtained, each of which included a number of sub-themes as shown in Table 1. The main themes obtained included poor educational situation, research problems, poor welfare services, and weakness in performing cultural affairs, which are discussed in more detail below.

Theme 1: Poor Educational Situation
- A) Undesirable teaching method

Most of the students were dissatisfied with the inexperience of some professors and the lack of mastery of some professors to present the lesson content.

In this regard, one student stated that "Our professors have a high academic level but the power to convey the concepts is not well" (Code 4) and another student stated that "some professors do not have sufficient mastery and experience in the lesson content" (Code 1)

B)   Insufficient educational resources

Another statement from the participants was the lack of professors to teach the lessons.

One of the students says, "The number of professors of our department is low for teaching, and I think if there are more, the quality of teaching will be better" (Code 3)

C)   Insufficient educational facilities

Students complained about the lack of Internet access in some classes and the low speed of the Internet, the lack of reference books related to the field of study in the library.

"We don't have internet in our classes and we can't search online, which can affect our learning" says one student.

And another student acknowledged what previous students said as "In the library of our faculty which is newly opened, our reference books are either not available or, if they are, they don't allowed us to bring them home" (Code 3).

D)   Inappropriate educational planning

According to the students, there was not enough time for teaching the full lesson content, as well as the compulsion to attend the university full time, the weakness in team learning and the high volume of content in some educational courses during one semester led to disorder in their learning.

In this regard one student says, "Because of the large volume of lesson content, much is not taught, and we have question and ambiguity" (Code 6).

And another student stated, "The condition of the college pavilion is not good, and when we were there all the time, we practically had a lot of wasted time, and we could go into the field to make better use of this time" (Code 7).

Theme 2: Research Problems

A)   Insufficient resources and budget

The students complained about the insufficient budget.

One student said, "Low budget is given and late and it takes about a year for the prize of articles to be awarded" (Code 9), and another student said, "Difficult conditions are put to get a prize for an article, so many students can't get the prize" (Code 11)

B)   Insufficient spiritual support

The students expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of cooperation between some research centers and hospitals to provide data and allocate limited and equal time for various research projects by the Student Research Committee.

So that one student stated, "I had to quit a lot of questions and research projects because the centers and hospitals didn't provide me with data, or they had a lot of selfishness about their own data" (Code 7).

C)   Weakness in the performance of professors with students in playing a research role

Most of the students stated that the professors had weakness in encouraging and attracting students in order to conduct research and the necessary cooperation in the research projects of interest to the students, and the research projects are imposed on the students by them.

A student says, "Professors do not play a significant role in encouraging students to carry out research projects" (Code 5).

Another student said, "Teachers impose their subjects on students to do research projects, and most of them refuse to cooperate in our projects" (Code 8).

Theme 3: Insufficient Welfare Services

A)   Weakness in equipment/facilities

Students pointed out some problems in this field as the lack of photocopiers in some faculties, the insufficiency of special loans to talented students, and the lack of self-service and markets in faculties.

One student stated that "They could afford to lend money to talented students which they didn't" (Code 2), and another student said, "In our faculty, self-service and market, or even a photocopier is not yet provided and it's not attended to" (Code 10).

B)   Weakness in the dormitory

The students were dissatisfied with the crowds and the lack of facilities in the dormitory and the inappropriate space of the study hall in the dormitories.

In this regard, a student stated that "dormitories are both crowded and not a good place to study, especially during exams" (Code 2)

Theme 4: Weakness in Cultural Affairs

    A) Weakness in cultural planning

The students stated that the informing in the faculties regarding cultural affairs is weak.

A student said, "In our faculty, we are not given any news of cultural affairs at all, only occasionally they attach some news as poster on the wall" (Code 6).

    B) Decreased individual motivation

The students stated some factors of the low motivation of the people for not participating in cultural affairs as, not allocating appropriate points in the regulations, insufficient time to participate in cultural affairs and low profitability for future careers.

So that in this regard a student said, "Our classes and lessons are too much, so we don't have time to go to that at all" (Code 2)

Another student stated, "At Ph.D., we should be more active in medicine, so I didn't go into cultural issues much" (Code 7).

Another student stated, "Since no specific point for participation in cultural affairs is not assigned by cultural regulations, and it's not that effective on our future career, so we didn't go towards it anymore"

According to the students, their most important problems and concerns included four main themes: poor educational situation, research problems, poor welfare services, and weakness in doing cultural affairs. By investigating the comments of the talented students on the "poor educational situation" theme, the researchers concluded that the lack of skills in teaching methods was one of the main problems for students and in this regard, holding workshops and teaching courses to promote educational systems is known essential which was consistent with the results of Sander's study (Sander et al. 2000 & Mc-Neel, 2004). There was also the problem of "insufficient mastery of some professors and their inexperience in teaching" so that like Pichter et al. (2010) study, one of the factors of academic achievement was the experience and expertise of the teacher, educational counseling and support and participatory learning. In the discussion of inappropriate educational planning, students also pointed out the importance of Team Based Learning, because this method leads to enhanced efficiency of students' learning, which is consistent with the study by Cheraghi et al. (2019).

The results of the investigation of students' opinions on research problems showed that the majority of the students, in addition to being new or unfamiliar with research methods and its steps, faced various obstacles, such as insufficient resources and budget, which are repeatedly mentioned in similar studies, inadequate spiritual support including the lack of cooperation between research centers and hospitals to provide them with data, allocating limited and equal time for a variety of research projects, and a lack of research facilities such as laboratories. Therefore, in this regard, the establishment of collaborative networks between professors and students, the dynamism of university research units, especially the Student Research Committee to support talented students and holding educational workshops is very important which is consistent with several studies (Zohor et al. 2003, Haynes et al. 1998 & Hamilton, 1986)

Regarding the problem of inappropriate welfare services, according to the students, there was a weakness in equipment/facilities and weakness in dormitory, which is consistent with the results of the study by Mohammadi et al. (2014). In order to improve and upgrade the welfare services to the students, holding special field trips for the talented, paying special loans during the study to the talented, paying the price of some recreational and educational classes by the university to the talented students, providing suitable spaces such as study halls and some other facilities are recommended in dormitories and also encouraging students in any way in the program of the talented can be very effective.

Other problems reported by the students included weakness in cultural affairs with themes of weakness in cultural affair planning and decreased individual motivation, so that the study by Avarideh & Elmi (2010) was consistent with the results of the present study. According to students' opinions, the factors influencing their poor performance to perform these tasks were things such as poor informing, insufficient time to participate in cultural affairs, lack of appropriate allocation of points in regulations to students and low profitability for future careers. Strengthening a sense of solidarity and social belonging among students, as well as creating cultural and social contexts by university officials, is also proposed as a solution and increasing participation. According to the problems and issues expressed, in the opinion of the talented students, things such as forming expert groups of the talented for informing and counselling students regarding the development of research projects, scientific productions or solving other educational and welfare problems by managers and university officials and, ultimately, more researches on the examination of providing new solutions to support and guide the talented in Iran are also recommended.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The results of this study showed the problems of the talented students in the fields of education, research and welfare more than before. Therefore, it is suggested that the authorities and planners take more care in order to meet the needs of this group of students.

Limitations of Study

One of the limitations of the current study is that it has been done only among talented students of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. Therefore, it is recommended to do similar studies in other medical universities in cities and countries.

Acknowledgments

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Appendix 1.
Content Analysis

Table 1.
Themes and sub Themes of present study

Theme	Sub-theme
Poor educational situation	Undesirable teaching method
	Insufficient educational resources
	Insufficient educational facilities
	Inappropriate educational planning
Research Problems	Insufficient resources and budget
	Insufficient spiritual support
	Weakness in the performance of professors with students in playing a research role
Insufficient welfare services	Weakness in equipment/facilities
	Weakness in the dormitory
Weakness in cultural affairs	Weakness in cultural planning
	Decreased individual motivation