Strategies for institutionalization of theorization chair criticism and debate to develop science in Iran

Mahboube Sadat Fadavi\textsuperscript{a} *, Alireza Yousefy\textsuperscript{b} Nadergholi Ghourchian\textsuperscript{c}

\textsuperscript{a} Assistant Professor of Islamic Azad university-Isfahan Science & Research Branch
Address: Add.#7, Malek Allay,Mir Ave., Isfahan, Iran
\textsuperscript{b} Associate Professor, Medical Education Research Center,Isfahan University of Medical Sciences,Iran
\textsuperscript{c} Professor of Islamic Azad university-Tehran Science & Research Branch, Iran

Abstract

The aim of the research is to study of theorization chair and its institutionalization for scientific development of the country. This study is qualitative and of the type of Grounded Theory. The data collection method is using documents and interviews with faculty members in Azad and state universities. After writing the interviews on the paper and implementing 10 stages Strouberg method, the results were analyzed. The findings showed that the main requirements for theorization chair are: independent thinking and open minded atmosphere through establishing creative thinking workshop and effective criticism workshop. So, the chair holder with leadership and managerial traits and scholarship skills as a key element can play an important role.

Keywords: Theorization, Critical Thinking, Higher Education

1. Introduction

In the different fields of science, the issue of producing science necessitates fast and serious policy making. Considering the fact that theorization is accounted preface of producing science and producing science is regarded as one of major performances in Higher Education resulting in meeting the needs and realizing the development and progress in the country, this question is raised how this position can result in providing proper place for presenting new theories and systematic dialogue, making correct decisions in research items, dedicating enough financial resources to producing special sciences, recognizing high-powered individuals with motivation in research subjects, and creating deep relationship between the institution producing science and the consumers of science. In other words, how can university system turn from science consumerism status into producing science system in a free-thinking environment?

The present study is to answer to the above question in order to determine the necessary requirements for realizing the considered goals and ideas. Accordingly, the necessity of the present research is justified in terms of several dimensions:

* Mahboube Sadat Fadavi. Tel.: +989133196833 fax:+983116630119
E-mail address: mahboube_fadavi@yahoo.com

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a) revealing the importance of the science and knowledge which influence the development and progress of the country

b) the onus of the Higher Education in the process of producing science

c) the role of universities in training the experts and professionals in terms of theorization

d) informing the society of the process of theorization

e) providing the proper opportunities for proposing and exchanging the views

f) representing Iran as the first scientific stand in the region in 20-year landscape document

2. Review of Literature

The board of supporting forum of theorization, criticism and debate was founded by the supreme council of Cultural Revolution (the highest authority of making scientific and cultural decisions in Islamic Republic of Iran) in February 2005. The main objective of the establishment of the board is to initiate a serious effort toward dissemination of free-thinking and quantitative and qualitative expansion of the afore-mentioned forums in the domain of humanities and Islamic thinking. Prominent scientists and scholars of the country will now be able to set fourth their invocations, theories, and scientific criticism at the forums with in the regulations set by this board, and enjoys many privileges. Meanwhile, one of the major goals of the Board of Supporting Forums of Theorization, Criticism, and Debate is to arrange international forums and expand scientific interactions between the Iranian and foreign thinkers, for which proper steps have already been taken. The board consists of 15 members including head of the major scientific and research centres of the Islamic Republic and several prominent scholars of the country in the field of humanities and Islamic teaching. The secretarial of the board consists of a scientific council and two research and supportive departments.

In Canada, there is a centre (as Theory Construction and Research Methodology) which performs as theorization chairs. This centre has communications with other scientific centres, research centres, and universities through establishing theorization workshops, professional conferences, publishing periodicals, scientific journals, call for theories and innovations. Theory Construction and Research Methodology centre in Canada offers scientific services to the scientific centres on the one hand, and makes use of the services from others scientific centres in doing its specialized scientific affairs in order to put forward its goals. There are many theorization centres across the world with special goals and long backgrounds and histories in various fields, such as RAND\(^2\) in America, CEDA\(^3\) in Australia, IDS\(^4\) in Malaysia, and …which are active in the followings: doing projects, analyzing development views, establishing meetings, dialogues, seminars, conferences, or composition of them working fields of which are theorization and offering ideas about economical, social, political, military development programs or resolving the special problems in local, national, and international organizations.

3. Findings:

Participants declared in relation to the concepts of theorization chairs, criticism and debate the followings:

Providing open environment for offering theories, forming official organizations for new and innovative ideas, systematic view to producing science, are paying attention to the process of resolving the problems. In relation to this question "which characteristics and traits should the chair holder have in order to guide and orient theorization chairs, criticism and debate?", the participants addressed to the following points: scientific honesty, fidelity to

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\(^2\) The name of which was derived from a contraction of the term research and development.

\(^3\) Committee for Economic Development of Australia

\(^4\) Institute for Development Studies
dogmatism (figure 1).

In general, the following points can be concluded:

- University is the most important and major position to create theorization.
- Leadership, management, and research potential of faculty members can play considerable role in orienting such activities.
- Creativity and culture of criticism must be paid attention to.
- Forming scientific communities and open-minded environment is of the most importance.
- Scientific independence and freedom, thinking, professional, and social security are of the prerequisites for such process.
- Competence and recognition of knowledge and ideas holders must be considered.
- Scientific atmosphere needs stability and tranquility in order individuals to keep on scientific activities.
- Promoting the culture “we can do” and considering the psychological issues such as self-esteem are of importance.

![Diagram of theorization process](image)

Figure 1. Finding about Theorization

References

- daneshnameh@acc.ir.com