

**A follow- up study of the male and female B.S. graduates of the department of exceptional children in school of education at Shiraz University concerning their views about importance and effectiveness of the implemented curriculum in academic years 2002-2006**

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**Abstract:** The purpose of the study was to pursue the views of male and female graduates of the department of exceptional children in school of Education at Shiraz University concerning the importance and effectiveness of the courses offered. The Population consisted of 137 male and female graduates, Therefore all were followed up. In order to gather the needed data, researchers self made scale was used. All courses were classified into 9 (nine) different categories of knowledge and skills. Statistical T test for independent groups was used. The results showed that there was a significant difference amongst the views of male and female graduates concerning the importance of the two categories of teaching and psychological knowledge and skills. There was also a significant difference found concerning the effectiveness of the two categories of teaching and research knowledge and skills.

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## 1. Introduction

Higher Education as one of the most important steps towards the development of the formal education. It can help any country to reach its goals for development of the human resource needed for national development (Javdani 1998).

The quality of education and research are two mayor elements that all systems of education try to achieve continually and reaching to that point, necessitates the use of evaluation of the outputs of the system of education. Therefore, the social needs of the Iranian system of education requires that outputs of the system to be researched (Bazargan, 1994).

## 2. Problem Statement

Some scholars believe that the graduates do not get the right job they were trained for, or they do get jobs that are not productive. The graduates are the best source of information concerning the statement above being true or not.

In order to test the amount of rightfulness of the above statement, the researchers decided to survey the views of the male and female B.S. graduates of the department of Special education at shiraz university concerning the important and effectiveness of the curriculum they received through the academic years 2002-2006.

## 3. Importance of the study

Every country in the world owns a system of education in order to transmit it's culture from one generation to another, and direct its efforts to raise the per capita income. One of the paths to do so is approaching the technique of promoting higher education.

The society needs human resource to run itself. The manpower needs to be educated. Higher education does so (Cantor, 1995).

The curriculum that is offered in the university fields of study need to make the graduates skillful and competent to do the job they are trained for( Ahola,2002). Of the fields of study at Shiraz University, is the field of special education. The graduates of this field of study are to become skillful in the area of caring. Educating, researching, counseling and helping the exceptional students. Therefore, the researchers believe that some of abilities of the graduates will be:

- 1) Surveying the physical, psychological and social characteristics of special education students.
- 2) Evaluating the cognitive abilities of normal and disabled students.
- 3) Offering proper techniques to prevent children from becoming emotionally,

Communicational and educationally deprived (Soodabi Shabestari, 2005).

**4. Methodology**

The research technique was follow- up. The population consisted of all 137 graduates who graduated from the academic years of 2002-2006 at B.S. level of special education department at Shiraz University. The male and female proportion of the population was 35 and 102 individuals respectively. The return rate of the questionnaires was at 69.34 percent.

**5. Instrument**

The instrument was questionnaire which was self-made. It consisted of two parts. The first part perused the demographic data and the second part consisted of 45 Likert-type questions on both scales of affectedness and importance of curriculum received. The skills were categorized in 9 Fields such as: 1) Counseling, 2) Sociological, 3) Practical, 4) Philosophical 5) Management and planning, 6) Research, 7) Teaching, 8) Psychological, 9) and Specialized skills. Reliability and validity of the Instrument was tested and approved.

Table 1. Male and Female population

Sex	Male	Female	Total
#	35	102	137

**6. Research Questions**

1-Is there a significance difference available in the distribution of the views of male and female B.S. graduates of special education at Shiraz University concerning the effectiveness of the curriculum they received in academic years 2002-2006

2- Is there a significant difference available in the distribution of the views of male and female B.S. graduates of special education at Shiraz University concerning the importance of the curriculum they received in academic years 2002-2006.

Statistical method of T-test for independent groups was used and SPSS was used to analyze the data.

**7. Results**

In order to respond the first research question, the T-test for independent groups was used, and the results showed that there was a significant difference found between the male and female groups in the areas of research and teaching skills. Women rated research and teaching skills more important than men. There was not any significant difference found in the views of men and women in other 7 areas. The results are presented in table 2.

Table 2. T- test results for the views of respondents on effectualness of Curriculum

Skills	Female			Male			t	df	Level of sig
	≠	X	SD	≠	X	SD			
Teaching Skills	75	4.64	.036	20	4.38	.032	2.99	93	./004
Psychological Skills	75	4.96	.017	20	4.69	.021	5.94	93	.0/0001

In order to get the response for the research question ≠ 2, T- test for independent group was used. The results showed that there was a significant difference found in the views of male and female respondents

concerning the research and teaching skills. Women rated the research and teaching skills more important than men. There were no significant difference found between men and women in the rest of skills. The results are presented in table 3.

Table 3. T- test results for the views of respondents on importance of Curriculum

Skills	Female			Male			t	df	Level of sig
	≠	X	SD	≠	X	SD			
Teaching Skills	75	4/07	0/82	20	3/44	0/64	3/16	93	0/002
Psychological Skills	75	4/34	0/38	20	4/05	0/32	3/11	93	0/004

**8. Discussion**

Based on the survey done by using T-test for independent groups (male and female), results Showed that there was a significant difference found between the views of male and female respondents on the teaching and psychological skills concerning the importance of the curriculum they received. There was also a significant difference found between the views

of female and male respondents on the research and teaching skills concerning the effectiveness of the curriculum they received, meaning that female graduates rated the teaching skills more important and more effectively. The reason why they did this is may be because female respondents usually are more interested in teaching jobs. It also may be because female respondents need more psychological skills to

establish effective relationship with others being either children, family members or social groups, and above all taking mother role and bring children up. These findings are consistent with Khademi (1984), Bagherizadeh (2004) and Pourhaghighizadeh (1999) studies.

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