Abstract

Universities worldwide prioritize research, recognizing it as essential to academic success, global reputation, and societal impact. Research output significantly contributes to the economic, technological, and social development of a country. In Bangladesh, however, university research output remains unsatisfactory compared to neighboring countries (UGC, 2018). Understanding the factors affecting research productivity can lead to targeted interventions that improve research performance, boost international rankings, and contribute to socio-economic development (N.K et al., 2018; Pavel, 2015; Benneworth & Hospers, 2007; Schaeffer et al., 2018). This study aims to investigate the drivers and barriers influencing the research productivity of faculty members in Bangladeshi universities. The existing literature indicates that personal attributes, institutional support, research environment, and network significantly affect research output. These factors can broadly be classified into three categories - individual, institutional and (national level) environmental factors. A time allocation model based on the works of Becker (1965) and Gronau (1977) incorporating the factors discussed in the existing literature on research productivity is proposed. Empirical models following the theory will be estimated using data collected through a survey. The study will collect nationally representative data through a two-stage stratified cluster survey of both public and private university faculty members. The determinants of research productivity will be assessed by analyzing variables such as time allocated for research activities, the number of peer-reviewed publications, and other research engagements. The study is expected to offer actionable insights for university administrators to foster a more research-conducive environment. The study will address ethical concerns by ensuring informed consent, protecting participant's privacy through pseudonymization, and maintaining strict confidentiality of the collected data.