



## The Necessity and Importance of Research and Its Role in Afghan Society

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### Abstract:

#### Purpose:

This research examines the necessity and importance of scientific research in Afghan society and its role in the country's economic, social, and cultural development. Given Afghanistan's numerous challenges, including war, poverty, and political instability, research is vital for identifying and analyzing problems and providing data-driven and evidence-based solutions.

#### Methodology:

This study is descriptive-analytical, focusing on describing and analyzing the status and significance of research in Afghan society. The research employs a qualitative methodology based on semi-structured interviews with researchers, university professors, and policymakers.

#### Findings:

Findings indicate that scientific research can contribute to economic development by enhancing educational quality, improving infrastructure, and increasing innovation. Additionally, the results suggest that institutional, cultural, and financial resource barriers are among the main challenges to advancing research in Afghanistan.

#### Implication:

Ultimately, this study emphasizes the need for investment in research and the creation of suitable infrastructures to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life in Afghanistan.

## INTRODUCTION

Scientific research holds a unique position as one of the core elements of development and progress in today's world. All societies, particularly developing countries like Afghanistan, need scientific and applied research to achieve sustainable growth and create economic and social welfare. Research produces new knowledge and aids governments and decision-making bodies in formulating more effective and intelligent policies to manage various challenges through data-driven solutions (Ooms et al., 2023). Afghanistan, plagued by decades of war, poverty, and structural problems, needs more scientific research than ever. In a nation facing extensive security, economic, educational, and social issues, research can be crucial in identifying and analyzing problems and providing practical solutions. Specifically, local research concerning Afghanistan's cultural, economic, and social conditions can significantly address the community's chronic challenges (Alemi et al., 2023). The importance of research in Afghan society can be examined from several perspectives. First, research can aid in economic development. Creating sustainable and efficient infrastructure, growing industries, enhancing educational levels, and improving people's quality of life require precise and knowledge-based research. Research in various fields, such as agriculture, natural resources, water management, rural development, and local industries, can enhance production and efficiency and lead the country toward economic development (Prado-Acebo et al., 2024). Second, research plays a fundamental role in improving educational quality in Afghanistan. Despite numerous efforts to enhance the educational system, significant weaknesses remain in this sector. Scientific research can help identify weaknesses in the educational system and the needs of students and professors and offer solutions to improve educational quality in Afghanistan. Moreover, through academic research, universities and educational institutions can become reliable sources for future decision-making and policy-making (Ameri et al., 2023).

Third, research increases public awareness and participation in community development and reconstruction processes. People can better understand societal problems and possible solutions by disseminating research findings and utilizing various media. This can foster social cohesion and strengthen public participation in political, social, and economic processes (Hindhede & Aagaard-Hansen, 2017). However, despite the high importance of research in Afghan society, numerous challenges exist. Financial resource shortages, lack of access to modern technologies, absence of suitable research and educational infrastructures, and cultural and social limitations are among the obstacles Afghan researchers face.

Additionally, political instability and the need to prioritize research at the governmental level have created problems in this field (Rahmani et al., 2021; Yar, 2024). Therefore, research must be viewed as a fundamental pillar to achieve sustainable development and scientific progress in Afghanistan, and appropriate investments in this area are necessary. Encouraging young people and academics to engage in scientific and applied research, creating suitable infrastructures, and supporting research projects in critical areas can be practical steps towards development and progress in Afghanistan (Snyder et al., 2020).

This research investigates the necessity and importance of scientific research in Afghan society. A qualitative approach is employed to achieve this goal, including semi-structured interviews with researchers, university professors, and policymakers (Saraswati et al., 2023). This methodology allows us to gain deeper insights from participants and better understand the challenges and opportunities facing research in Afghanistan. This explanation provides a better understanding of the research process and its importance for the country's future development. The following sections of this paper will offer a more in-depth analysis of the importance of research, examine existing challenges, and propose solutions to strengthen the research culture in Afghan society.

**Research Objective.** This research examines the necessity and importance of research in Afghan society and elucidates its role in national development. It aims to analyze the role of research in addressing economic, social, and cultural problems and highlight the need for improving research and scientific infrastructures in Afghanistan. Additionally, identifying challenges and obstacles researchers face and offering solutions to improve the research environment in the country are also key research objectives.

#### **Research Questions.**

1. What role does research play in Afghanistan's economic, social, and cultural development?
2. What factors hinder the advancement of scientific research in Afghanistan?
3. How can the position of research in Afghanistan be improved, and how can existing barriers be addressed?
4. What is the role of educational and governmental institutions in supporting researchers and strengthening research infrastructure?

**Significance of the Research.** The significance of this research is noteworthy from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Theoretically, it contributes to expanding knowledge regarding the importance of scientific research in the national and international development processes. It elucidates the necessity of viewing research as a primary driving force for development. Practically, the results of this research could be valuable for policymakers, educational institutions, and research centers in Afghanistan, aiding them in better planning for enhancing research and addressing its barriers. Additionally, this research could encourage youth and researchers to engage in scientific and applied research and play a significant role in fostering a research culture in the country.

**Problem Statement.** Research is recognized as one of the core elements of sustainable development in various societies. In developed countries, research is crucial in improving the quality of life, advancing economic progress, and addressing social issues. However, scientific research faces numerous challenges in Afghanistan, including more necessary infrastructure, limited access to financial resources and modern technologies, and political instability (Essar et al., 2023). These challenges have resulted in research needing an adequate position in Afghanistan and failing to address the country's fundamental problems effectively.

Consequently, many economic, social, and cultural issues still need to be examined scientifically, and decisions are often made without a research-based foundation (Yar & Yasouri, 2024). The problem statement for this research is based on the fact that despite the high importance of research in the development process, Afghanistan still needs to utilize its research potential fully. Therefore, it is essential to thoroughly examine the barriers and challenges faced by Afghan researchers and propose solutions to enhance the status of research in this society.

**Research Background.** Scientific research is recognized as one of the primary factors of progress in any society and has played a significant role in bringing about positive and sustainable changes in developed countries. The importance of research in developing countries has also garnered attention from many researchers. Studies in this area show that economic, social, and cultural development is only possible with scientific and applied research.

In a study conducted by Fang et al. (2022) on the role of research in economic development in South Asian countries, it was found that countries that place greater importance on research and scientific development experience more sustainable economic growth. This study demonstrated that using scientific findings in economic policymaking directly contributes to poverty reduction and improved public welfare. Given Afghanistan's cultural and economic similarities with many South Asian countries, the results of this research could help understand the necessity of research in Afghanistan and illustrate how investment in scientific research can lead to economic growth and social improvement (Fang et al., 2022).

In another study by Igwe et al. (2021) in West African countries, the relationship between scientific research and the improvement of educational systems was examined. This research showed that research related to education and educational innovations has enhanced educational quality and increased literacy rates in these countries. The study emphasized that educational institutions require more financial and infrastructural support to conduct scientific research. Considering Afghanistan's similar conditions in the education sector and the importance of research in improving the educational system, this study can illustrate how scientific research in Afghanistan can contribute to educational quality enhancement (Igwe et al., 2021).

Regarding the role of research in political and governmental decision-making, Mondal et al. (2022) concluded in a study conducted in Southeast Asian countries that using scientific findings in policy formulation could lead to more informed decision-making and reduce governmental risks. The study particularly highlighted the importance of academic research in addressing social and economic crises. Since Afghanistan faces similar crises, this research could be crucial for understanding the role of research in creating effective policies in Afghanistan (Mondal et al., 2022).

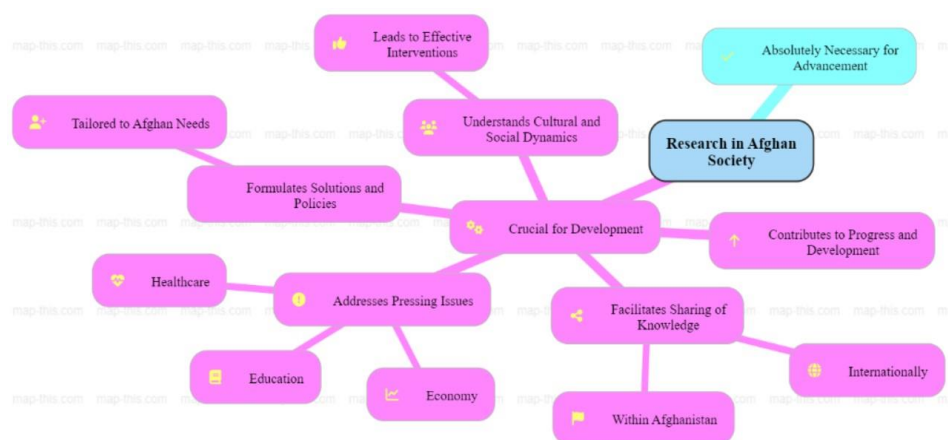
A study about Middle Eastern countries also showed that lacking a robust research framework leads to the inefficacy of many development and social projects. This research emphasized the importance of coordination between scientific institutions, universities, and governments to achieve developmental programs. Afghanistan could leverage these findings as a neighboring country to the Middle East to strengthen connections between universities and the government to increase scientific research and improve high-level decision-making (Emami et al., 2018). Studies conducted in developing countries indicate that scientific research is vital for sustainable development and improving economic and social conditions. However, adequate attention must be paid to this issue in Afghanistan, and researchers face numerous challenges. Considering the gaps in scientific research in Afghanistan and the lack of sufficient resources, this research aims to provide solutions for enhancing the status of research in the country and contribute to the literature on this subject.

**Theoretical Framework.** This theoretical framework provides a conceptual structure to understand the research topic and scientific investigations better. This study examines the necessity and importance of research in Afghan society. It will utilize theories of sustainable development, research and higher education, and models related to capacity building and innovation.

Sustainable Development Theory is one of the critical theories addressed in this research. Sustainable development is defined as a process that meets the current needs of communities without compromising the ability

of future generations to meet their own needs. Within this framework, scientific research is crucial for creating innovation, improving productivity, and ensuring economic sustainability. In developing countries like Afghanistan, scientific research can contribute to finding sustainable solutions for economic, social, and environmental challenges (Thomas & Mantri, 2022).

Research and Higher Education Theories will also be explored in this study. These theories examine the importance of research in enhancing educational quality, improving scientific infrastructure, and creating job opportunities in countries seeking progress and development. According to these theories, universities and educational institutions should serve as primary centers for scientific research and implement more robust research policies to train researchers and advance scientific knowledge within society (Schwengel & Toy, 2019). Finally, Models Related to Capacity Building and Innovation will be another significant component of the theoretical framework in this research. These models emphasize that establishing research capacities at the national level and strengthening scientific and technological innovations can help in economic growth and increase a country's ability to address complex challenges. Given Afghanistan's current situation, enhancing research capacity could lead to developing indigenous and practical solutions to the country's problems (Bai et al., 2021). This theoretical framework helps clarify the foundational ideas of the research and demonstrates how scientific concepts and theories can elucidate the necessity and importance of research in Afghan society.



**Figure 1.** Mind Map of Research in Afghan Society

## METHODS

This research methodology is designed to gather valid data and analyze it to assess the importance of research in Afghan society. The research adopts a qualitative approach, as it is crucial to understand the perspectives, experiences, and perceptions of Afghan researchers, academics, and policymakers regarding research and its role in society.

**Type of Research:** This study is descriptive-analytical, focusing on describing and analyzing the status and significance of research in Afghan society. Necessary data will be collected through in-depth interviews and direct observation of the research status in universities and research centers in Afghanistan.

**Sampling Method:** Sampling will be purposeful. The study population includes researchers, university professors, graduate students, and policymakers related to the research and higher education sector. Theoretical sampling will select individuals with the most experience and knowledge in research and higher education.

**Data Collection Tools:** The primary data collection tool will be “semi-structured interviews”. These interviews are designed to explore participants' views and experiences regarding the importance and role of research in Afghanistan's economic and social development. Additionally, secondary sources will be direct observation and review of existing research documentation in universities and research centers.

**Data Analysis Method:** Collected data will be analyzed using qualitative content analysis. This method will systematically code the content of interviews and observations, and patterns, themes, and critical concepts will be extracted (Julianti et al., 2023). The data will then be analyzed using the research's theoretical framework to derive the final findings.

This research methodology will facilitate an in-depth and accurate examination of the role of research in Afghan society. It will utilize valid data to analyze the challenges and opportunities in this field.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Data Analysis and Interpretation.** The data analysis and interpretation section is one of the most essential parts of any research, where the collected data is examined, analyzed, and interpreted in detail. In this research, which examines the **\*\*necessity and importance of research and its place in Afghan society\*\***, the data was collected through in-depth interviews and direct observations. This section compares the results obtained from this data with the provided theoretical framework, and the research questions are answered.

**Content Analysis of Interviews.** Qualitative data was collected through semi-structured interviews with researchers, university professors, graduate students, and policymakers. The content analysis of these interviews shows us that overall perspectives on research in Afghanistan can be divided into several main categories:

1. **The importance of research for economic development:** Most participants believed that scientific research directly affects the country's economic development. They pointed out that in developed countries, scientific research has led to industrial innovations and improvements in production processes. However, in Afghanistan, this connection has yet to be fully established. According to one participant: "Research in Afghanistan is often limited to universities and rarely finds its way into economic policymaking." This finding aligns with the research's theoretical framework, "sustainable development theory." According to this theory, scientific research should be viewed as a tool for creating innovation and improving economic productivity. In Afghanistan, the need for improvement in implementing this approach is evident.
2. **The role of research in improving educational quality:** Another part of the analysis indicates that participants believe scientific research can help improve Afghanistan's educational system. Most university professors and graduate students acknowledged that Afghan universities lack research resources and scientific tools, leading to a decline in the quality of education and scientific research. This topic aligns with the "theory of research and higher education" examined within the theoretical framework. The theory emphasizes that appropriate scientific research enhances educational quality in countries. Our findings indicate that one of the main challenges in Afghanistan is the need for more infrastructure for conducting scientific research.
3. **Institutional and cultural barriers to research:** Another key finding highlights the cultural and institutional barriers to research in Afghanistan. Some participants pointed out that scientific research in Afghan society needs more support, and many government institutions still need to recognize its importance. According to one researcher, research is not seen as a national priority in Afghanistan, which has led to a lack of research funding and a decrease in motivation for researchers.

These findings are consistent with "models related to capacity building and innovation" examined within the theoretical framework. These models emphasize that scientific innovations and research development in countries are only feasible with institutional support and the establishment of research capacities.

**Comparison with previous research.** To analyze the data more accurately, the results obtained were compared with the findings of previous studies presented in the literature review section. Research conducted in South Asian and West African countries indicates sustainable development is impossible without scientific research. The results of the present study also confirm that in Afghanistan, weakness in conducting scientific research, particularly in economic and educational fields, is one of the main factors of the country's developmental lag.

While previous research has shown that scientific research has improved educational quality and enhanced economic policymaking in many developing countries, this study's findings indicate that this connection has yet to be fully established in Afghanistan. Many institutional and cultural barriers need to be addressed.

**Response to Research Questions.** Based on the collected data and conducted analysis, the research questions have been answered accurately:

1. How can research contribute to Afghanistan's development? The findings indicate that research can help improve production processes and industrial innovations and enhance educational quality. However, better infrastructure and institutional research support are needed to achieve this goal.
2. What factors have hindered the development of research in Afghanistan? The main barriers are a lack of research funding, weak institutional support, and inadequate connections between research and economic policymaking. Additionally, cultural and social obstacles play a significant role in reducing research motivation.

**The conclusion from the Analysis and Interpretation of Data.** Based on the analysis and interpretation of the collected data, scientific research in Afghanistan still needs to be recognized as a national priority, and there is a strong need to create research capacities and scientific innovations. While scientific research has acted as a tool for improving economic and social conditions in many developing countries, Afghanistan still has a long way to go to achieve this goal (Chukwu, 2023). The findings of this research can help develop new policies to strengthen research in the country and highlight the necessity of implementing structural changes in scientific and educational institutions.

In this section, we examine and analyze the main findings of the research and place them within the framework of the necessity and importance of research in Afghan society. This research aimed to investigate the role of research in Afghanistan's economic, social, and educational development and the existing barriers to research development. The findings indicate that research in Afghanistan is considered not only a necessity but also one of the main factors for the sustainable growth and development of the country. However, there are numerous obstacles in its way.

**Overview of Main Findings.** This research showed that scientific research plays a crucial role in economic development, improving the quality of education, and intelligent policymaking in both developed and developing countries. However, in Afghanistan, this potential has yet to be fully utilized. The results indicated that three major factors have influenced the diminishing importance of research in Afghanistan:

- Lack of financial and infrastructural resources: Afghan researchers need to work on securing financial resources and suitable infrastructure for conducting scientific research. More resources are needed to increase research motivation and quality.
- Weak institutional and cultural support: Governmental and private institutions must sufficiently recognize research's importance. As a result, the necessary support for researchers and scientific institutions is lacking, and research-based policy planning efforts could be more effective.
- Lack of connection between research and economic and social policymaking: The connection between universities and research centers with the government and policymaking institutions must be more robust. This has resulted in research findings needing more effectively utilized in economic and social decision-making (Ciocca Eller, 2024). These findings are generally consistent with the theoretical framework presented in this research. Sustainable development and higher education theories emphasize that withable progress in economic and educational fields cannot be achieved without scientific research.

**Response to research questions.** The findings of this research answered the main research questions:

- How can research contribute to Afghanistan's development? Based on its findings, scientific research can improve production processes, enhance industrial innovations, and increase productivity in economic and educational sectors. Especially in education, scientific research can help improve the quality of Afghanistan's educational system and guide the country's scientific and educational institutions toward progress.
- What factors have hindered the development of research in Afghanistan? The findings indicated that factors such as the lack of financial and infrastructural resources, weak institutional and cultural support, and the absence of connections between research and economic and social policymaking are the main obstacles to research development in Afghanistan.

**Practical and Theoretical Results.** The results of this research are significant from both "practical" and "theoretical" perspectives:

- Practical Results: This research showed that to promote research in Afghanistan, new capacities must be created, infrastructure must be improved, and more financial resources should be allocated. Additionally, more connections should be established between scientific and governmental institutions to utilize research results effectively in the country's macro-level policymaking.
- Theoretical Results: From a theoretical perspective, this research emphasized the importance of scientific research in developing countries and concluded that sustainable development is only possible with scientific research (Zhang et al., 2023). These findings can contribute to the research literature in development and higher education and assist other researchers in analyzing the role of research in countries similar to Afghanistan.

**Research Limitations.** This research has faced limitations that should be considered:

- Financial and Time Limitations: Due to time and financial constraints, the researcher needed more extensive data and conducted more interviews in various regions of Afghanistan. This may have affected the breadth and diversity of the obtained data.
- Access Limitations to Resources: Due to the specific conditions in Afghanistan, access to certain institutions and individuals related to the research was not possible, which may have reduced the diversity of the research samples.

## CONCLUSION

This research demonstrated that scientific research in Afghanistan is necessary for development. The findings emphasize that to harness the potential of scientific research in Afghanistan, infrastructure must be improved, more financial resources should be allocated, and institutional and cultural support for researchers should be increased. Ultimately, strengthening scientific research can lead to sustainable development, economic growth, and improved educational quality in Afghanistan, acting as a critical factor in the country's progress.

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