

Academic Certificate Falsification Study in Sudan University of Science and Technology, 2013 (Sudan)

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Abstract– By the spread of university learning opportunities, learning tend to become available for everyone who satisfies college admission requirements. Although, in some field the number of graduate is greater than available job chances, non-qualified persons looked to fill such jobs by falsification of academic university certificates to satisfy a particular job description. Frailness of some graduates to satisfy postgraduate studies requirements may be also another reason of academic certificate falsification. Availability of advance scanning and copying technology assist in certificate falsification. Moreover, the weakness of the certificate issuing system in the university itself may also lead to this phenomenon. In this research work, a study of certificate falsification in Sudan University of Science and Technology in 2013 carried out. Number of 1100 certificate verified during year 2013. Results showed that 1.18% of them were false. Moreover, 0.82% certificate of them provided for verification by abroad corporations and only 0.37% provided by corporations inside the country. No false certificate issued inside the university.

Keywords– Learning Tend, Academic Certificate Falsification, Science and Technology

I. INTRODUCTION

University certificate falsification may occur by providing transcript, diploma, or other credential that has been altered or falsified. It may occur in different ways; it may occur when someone that does not study at the university but he has a certificate from the university. It may occur also when someone has a certificate but he does not complete the course program. Some graduates falsify certificates by improving their class of award and providing certificates with class of award better than the original one.

University academic certificate falsification become a serious issue all over the world therefore, universities have to address and plane to put on the required systems and regulations to face such issue.

Sudan University of Science and Technology is one of the important universities in Sudan. It now consists of twenty colleges distributed in nine campuses in Khartoum State. The total student population, tend to seventy thousand students enrolled in B.Sc. level, Diploma level and postgraduate level in addition to distance education programs. The diversified colleges of the university reflect the constant endeavor to seek knowledge in all fields to produce excellent graduates.

The university established in 1990 to upgrade Khartoum polytechnic (1975) to become Sudan University of Science

and Technology. Since that date, the growth of the University was very rapid.

The university head quarter and number of colleges, centers and institutes situated in the main campus in the center of Khartoum state. While other colleges are distributed in other campuses including southern campus, music and drama campus, kuku campus, radiologic science campus, shambat campus, the northern campus, wad al maqbul campus and the forestry campus.

II. GOVERNMENTAL UNIVERSITIES ADMISSION (2012/2013)

By the declaration of the revolution of higher education in 1990, the ministry of higher education in Sudan plan to increase the university admission by increasing the number of student and opening new colleges and universities in different states.

According to general admission administration office, the governmental universities admission in academic year 2012/2013 distributed as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of governmental universities admission

University	Students	%
Umdurman Islamic university	11806	11.02
Sudan university	9770	9.12
Khartoum	7899	7.37
Quran Karim	7470	6.97
Bahari	7460	6.96
Gazera	6045	5.64
Nilain	7320	6.83
Wadielneel	3595	3.35
Azhari	2255	2.10
Other governmental universities	43542	40.63
Total	107162	100

From Table 1, it could be note that Sudan University represents the second university among the governmental university according to the governmental admission 2012/2013. Fig. 1 demonstrates graphically the distribution of governmental universities admission that year.

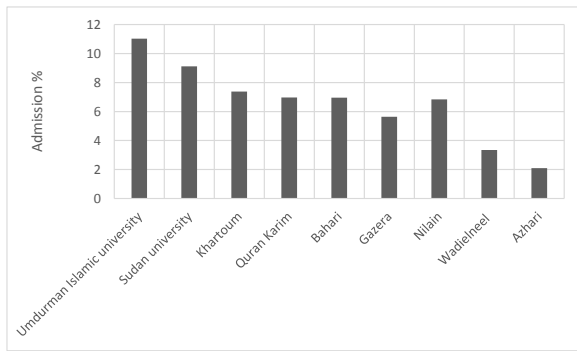


Fig. 1: Distribution of governmental universities admission in 2012/2013

According to student population, college of engineering is the largest college in Sudan University of Science and Technology. Base on university admission (2012/2013) - Table 2 - it has approximately 25% of the total B.Sc. university admission.

Table 2: Sudan university admission (2012/2013)

College	Students	%
Engineering	1016	24.57
Commercial studies	453	10.96
Education	440	10.64
Science	364	8.80
Agriculture	346	8.37
Medical laboratory science	210	5.08
Languages	180	4.35
Animal production	170	4.11
Music and drama	160	3.87
Sport	151	3.65
Communication science	130	3.14
Fine and applied art	120	2.90
Forestry	110	2.66
Water and environment engineering	100	2.42
Petroleum engineering	65	1.57
Veterinary	60	1.45
Medical radiology science	60	1.45
Total	4135	100

III. SUDAN UNIVERSITIES ADMISSION DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO SPECIALIZATION

According to information distributed by the general admission administration office through their publication, the total governmental universities admission on academic yeas 2012/2013 according to specialization distributed as listed in Table 3.

From the Table 3, it can be noted that engineering studies represent only 7.9% of the total admission while educational study stand on the top by 27.1%. Fig. 2 illustrates graphically the distribution of admission according to specialization.

Table 3: Sudan universities admission 2012/2013 distributed according to specialization

Specialization	Students	%
Education	21001	27.1
Humanistic studies	16978	21.9
Social studies	15992	20.6
Medical science	6293	8.1
Engineering	6137	7.9
Agriculture	5402	7.0
Basic Science	5276	6.8
Services	429	0.6

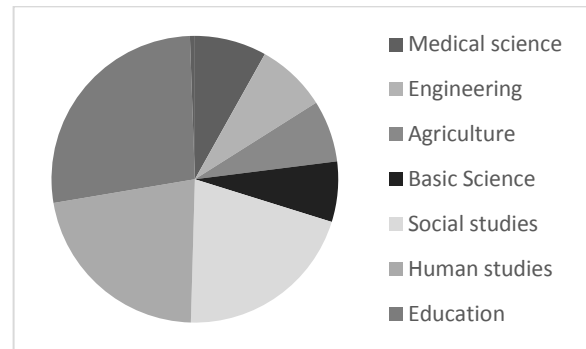


Fig. 2: Distribution of the total admission according to specialization

IV. SUDAN UNIVERSITY VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Sudan University of Science and Technology (SUST) is looking forward to become a distinguished institution of applied sciences, a global center of excellence in scientific research, and committed to community services.

The mission of the university is to provide educational programs in applied knowledge in the fields of basic, engineering & medical sciences, and humanities & natural resources, and keeps pace with modern programs. SUST produces a great deal of original scientific research of practical nature that leads to sustained development and the ability to cope with new technology, thus leading to the emergence of prominent & distinguished scientists of high international caliber and reputation.

Base on its policy, Sudan University of Science and Technology has number objectives. These objectives summarized in the following points:

- i. Ensuring and originating the Sudanese identity through applied programs,
- ii. Providing educational opportunities and preparing students and awarding degrees in humanities and applied sciences,
- iii. Carrying out research to fulfill the various and changing needs and upgrade the community,
- iv. Innovating, transferring and availing of the technology for the welfare of the people,

- v. Opening cooperation channels with other higher education and scientific research institutions inside the country to help achieve development plans,
- vi. Placing concern on intellectual issues, folklore and development in the Arab, African and Islamic world,
- vii. Training the students and strengthening cooperation ties with the other institutions and
- viii. Giving advices and cooperating with firms within the limit of its finance and human resources.

V. RECENT STATISTICS OF SUDAN UNIVERSITY

Referring to the recent statistical figures of the university at the end of 2013, the university capabilities and infrastructure, could summarized as shown in the following Table 4.

Table 4: Recent statistics of Sudan University

Item	No.
Colleges	21
Centers	5
Institutes	2
Campuses	9
Deanships	3
EX-Vice Chancellors & Deans	68
Professors	44
Associate Professors	160
Assistant Professors	260
Lecturers	568
Teaching Assistant	283
Academic Programs (Bachelor)	106
Academic programs (Diploma)	59
Class rooms	135
Labs	295
Farms	9
Fields	4
Workshops	59

VI. SECRETARY OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The secretariat of academic affairs at Sudan University of Science and Technology originally established in 1975 as an office for academic secretary at Khartoum Polytechnic concerned with carrying out the secretarial work of the academic counsel and implementing training programs and scholarships for staff members at that time. This office became the secretariat of academic affairs in 1990 when Khartoum Polytechnic upgraded to Sudan University of Science and Technology. According to the university rules and regulations secretariat of academic affairs is concerned with monitoring the development and improvement of the quality of the academic performance of the colleges and other academic units of the university. This achieved through the following:

- Maintaining the excellent quality of students admitted to the university and facilitating their registration procedures,
- Participating in preparing and implementing well developed academic curriculums that satisfy the required outcomes,

- Participating in students' evaluation systems,
- Authenticating certificates for graduates and others certificates and official papers required by students.

In addition, secretariat of academic affairs executes the university training plan prepared by the central training committee for training the academic staff through postgraduate scholarships and short courses and for training and upgrading technicians inside Sudan and abroad.

Secretariat of academic affairs also, executes training and upgrading programs for non-academic staff and other workers.

In general, it can said to be that the secretariat of academic affairs aims at serving the university community by creating a culture of academic excellence that embraces diversity, sustains, innovation and intellectual integrity and enhances social, cultural and economic qualities.

VII. SUDAN UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE ISSUING SYSTEM

According to the system adopted in Sudan University of Science and Technology, each collage has its own registrar office. This office is responsible from both student registration procedures as well as academic certificate issuing. This office belonging to the dean of the college under the supervision of the secretary of the academic affairs. Therefore, secretary of the academic affairs has a copy of all student academic documents including examinations results. Each student can admit to issue a certificate in this office. This certificate then authenticated in the university secretariat of academic affairs.

VIII. UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATES VERIFICATION SYSTEM

Sudan University of Science and Technology has strict measures in place to check whether certificates are correct or falsified. This check is a responsibility of the secretary of the academic affairs. Therefore, certificates of all university colleges have to pass through secretary of the academic affairs for verification, assuring the correctness and it has the authority of rejecting certificate or asking college registration office for mending information or statement.

Organization or peoples asking for verification of any certificate usually refer to secretary of the academic affairs.

IX. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

During year 2013, secretary of academic affairs received total number of 1091 certificates for verification. Number of 1087 certificates of them received from outside the country. These certificates covering twelve colleges of the university. Certificates of the college of engineering represent the large number by 812 certificates followed by the college of radiometry science by 122 certificates. The rest of the colleges only share with 161 certificates.

Table 5 provides information about the colleges and the number of certificates submitted for verification from outside the country.

Table 5: Colleges and number of abroad certificates submitted for verification

College	Number of certificates verified
Engineering	812
Medical radiology science	122
Graduate	70
Medical laboratory science	47
Petroleum technology	11
Water and environment engineering	10
Science	4
Fine and applied art	3
Technology	3
Agriculture	2
Khartoum polytechnic	2
Education	1
Total	1087

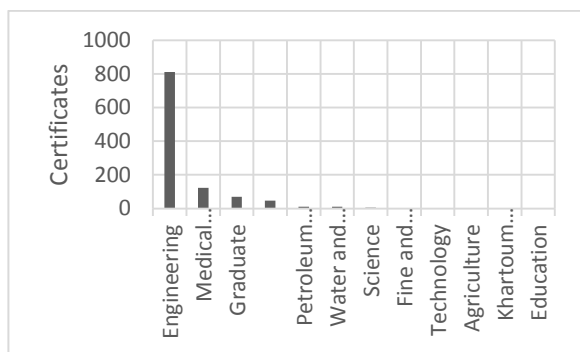


Fig. 3: Colleges and number of certificates verified

Only number of four certificates received from interior corporations limited in three colleges; engineering, commercial studies and computer science as shown in Table 6 hereunder.

Table 6: Certificates received from interior corporations

College	Number of certificates verified
Engineering	2
Commercial studies	1
Computer science	1
Total	4

After the certificate verification process take place in secretary of academic affairs at the university it was found to be that the number 13 certificates were falsified. This number represents 1.19% of the total number of certificates verified. Nine certificates out of the 13 falsified certificates were come

from outside the country by ratio of 0.82% while only four certificates from interior corporations. i.e., 0.37%.

Table 7: Details of the false certificates

College	False certificates		
	Exterior	Interior	Total
Engineering	9	2	11
Computer science	-	1	1
Commercial studies	-	1	1
Total	9	4	13

X. CONCLUSIONS

This study oriented to make some sort of investigation about university academic certificate falsification in Sudan University of Science and Technology during the year 2013. Data collected depending on information of the university scientific affairs. From results obtained, it can be conclude with the following:

- Sudan University of Science and Technology represent the second university according to the governmental universities admission 2012/2013.
- Engineering studies represent about 7.9% of the total governmental universities admission on academic year 2012/2013. On the other hand, the admission of the college of engineering at Sudan University of Science and Technology represent about 25% of the B.Sc. university admission at the same year.
- Abroad number of certificates provided for verification is large compared with the local one.
- The demand of certificate verification concentrate on engineering graduates both internally and externally. Radiometry is the second and post-graduate become the third.
- Most of falsified certificates referred to engineering graduates.
- Only 1.19% of the total number of certificates provided for verification were false.
- No false certificate issued inside the university.
- Investigation study of the falsified certificates reflects that the falsification itself done carelessly neglecting the true names and signatures of authorized certificate issuing persons and their signatures.
- Until date, falsification of Sudan University of Science and Technology academic certificates is not a serious mater, but precautions should be taken in future.

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

This study covers the university academic certificate falsification phenomenon for Sudan University of science and technology during year 2013 only. Further studies can cover:

- i. Extending the study to cover long period of time,
- ii. Covering more Sudan universities,
- iii. Study academic certificate falsification among regional and international universities.

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