

## A SCOPIC REVIEW OF RESEARCH AT DEPARTMENT OF IQBAL STUDIES, AIOU

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### Abstract:

Researchers focusing on literary personalities like Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, usually concentrate on perceiving and interpreting the popular areas of their works or the perspectives of their wisdom etc. Is there any further needs to be explore and understand in relation to research and concepts in the field of Iqbal Studies? A scoping method is used to carry out this study with the purpose of mapping Research Literature on Iqbal Studies, conducted at the Department of Iqbal Studies Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Pakistan with focus on exploring how the Iqbal's Perspective of Women Studies is perceived by researchers? This review intended to provide grounds for analyzing how researchers delimit concepts of Iqbal Studies in their phenomenon of interest and while doing so what important areas are missed or need to be explored. This study is limited to the academic research conducted at MPhil & PhD level. The paper shares the importance of research areas in the field of Iqbal Studies and the results of the scoping review carried out. It also attempt to document the gaps in the areas of interests in research themes through retrieved research literature, concluding with some recommendations for way forward.

**Keywords:** Iqbal, Research on research, Pakistan, Scoping Review, Department of Iqbal Studies, AIOU, Women Studies

Iqbal (1877-1938) a poet thinker and philosopher, presents his thoughts in three languages: Urdu, English and Persian. He enjoyed the fame in his own life and embraced the criticism as well. Most of his works got published in his life. Some of them got translated and other were discussed amongst intellectuals. He managed to formulate a trend of original thinking. He emerged to be a school of thought with a style of his own. His thoughts are being translated, interpreted and studied ever since. This process is still on. Iqbal Studies has become an important feature of various faculties of universities in home and abroad. Iqbal himself did academic research for his PhD degree, titled: "Development of Metaphysics in Persia". Allama Iqbal has laid so much emphasis on research, as he says:

خمیہ زن ہو وادی سینا میں مانند کلیم  
شعلہ تحقیق کو غارت گر کاشانہ کر<sup>1</sup>

Inhabit in the valley of Sina like Kaleem  
Let the flame of research destroy the shacks

Iqbal had an opinion too on the downfall in the quality of research, or trend of research in his times. He exclaims with heavy heart that:

آہ محکومی و تقلید و زوال تحقیق!  
حلقہ شوق میں وہ جرات اندیشہ کہاں<sup>2</sup>

At departments of different faculties, as an academic requirement, students opt final dissertation topic from the field of Iqbal Studies at higher degree level of MA, MPhil and PhD. These theses unfold various aspects of life, works and thoughts of Iqbal. Not only students, teaching faculty also contributes their valued research in the form of research articles and books published on Iqbal. Selecting topics of research in a certain discipline is the first and most important step in the process of research. Ending up with new topic is a big challenge. It is the case with research in Iqbal Studies. Apparently, a lot has been done in the terms of research in this discipline and finding a new significant topic of research is a matter of concern. There is a prevailing perception that a lot has been explored already and no more significant research is possible in the field of Iqbal Studies. It is very important to have an over view of trends of researches done so far so as to decide on what is to be done further.

The scope of this study is to map literature on Iqbal Studies as part of implementation activities of an HEC funded NRPU2020 project on Iqbal's Perspective of Women Empowerment, further exploring how the Iqbal's Perspective of women empowerment like social, economic, religious, empowerment of women is perceived by researchers in Art & Humanities research. This is limited to the research made at Department of Iqbal Studies, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Islamabad, Pakistan.

AIOU is an academic institution at its core for Distance Education. The idea of teaching to the masses from distance mainly to those who cannot leave their homes and jobs and are still committed to formal learning, was first mooted in 60s by the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson. The UK Open University was established in 1969. Later AIOU was established as the second Open University in the world in May 1974 under Act No. XXXIX passed by the Parliament of Pakistan. Initially it was named as People's Open University but in 1977 on the eve of the first anniversary of the national poet and philosopher Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, it was named as Allama Iqbal Open University. This provided the housebound girls and women with educational opportunities with more than 50% of admissions of female students.<sup>3</sup> The Department of *Iqbaliat* (Iqbal Studies) was established in 1981.<sup>4</sup> This department is pioneer among the universities of Pakistan, specialized for teaching and research in Iqbal studies. It aims to disseminate the teachings of Allama Iqbal for community in Pakistan and Muslim countries, to strengthen the ideology of Pakistan, to achieve national integrity and unity through education of Iqbal's message.

No consolidated research made so far on the research on Iqbal and no centralized database or repository is available at national level, which can suggest the point of saturation in terms of themes and gaps. This paper shares the importance of research areas in the field of Iqbal Studies and the results of the scoping review carried out. It shall also attempt to document the gaps in the areas of interests in research themes through retrieved literature, concluding with some recommendations for way forward.

Scoping Review, is an approach used to comprehensively review across the retrieved literature. Scoping reviews may be defined as: "exploratory projects that systematically map the literature available on a topic, identifying key concepts, theories, sources of evidence and gaps in the research".<sup>5</sup> York framework put forth by Arksey and O'Malley (2005)<sup>6</sup> is employed as the methodology for the scoping review. As per York framework, the indicated five steps are followed for the scoping exercise<sup>7</sup>:

### **Stage 1: Identifying the research question:**

- What are the existing areas/themes of research covered in the sample research material?
- Is there any shift over the time in trends of themes in the field of Iqbal Studies?
- What are the prospects of research in the field of Iqbal Studies?

**Stage 2: Identifying relevant studies:**

Some academic research is available on the research contributions of certain organizations, journal, scholars etc. This paper deals with research on research, done at educational organization. Some such research studies found during literature review like study on MA/MPhil theses of Oriental College Lahore & Punjab University<sup>8</sup>, Research on Iqbal at Department of Urdu Bahaud-Din-Zakariya University Multan<sup>9</sup>, theses of MA and M.Ed. on Iqbal at Punjab University etc.<sup>10</sup> No Study is found on the research contributions of Department of Iqbal Studies AIOU. Further More uniqueness of this research is to apply York framework Scopic Review methodology of mapping the scope of research.

**Stage 3: Study selection:**

Departments at universities usually maintain the list of theses produced by their scholars, for the use of future scholars mostly at the time of topic selection. The lists can tell what is done but mere listing hardly help the new researchers to understand the trends and approaches in past and nor these lists show any saturation or the gaps in areas of research. But at the same time these lists are useful raw data that can be used further in mapping the trends in research in the field of Studies that lead to new available or possible areas. Such mapping study on research in the field of Iqbal Studies is not available. Therefore, for this research paper list of MPhil, PhD theses compiled by the Department of Iqbal Studies, AIOU is used as primary data to review the trends of research themes in the subject area. In the available list, data is listed as titles of MPhil and PhD theses, Name of researcher, supervisors, year of completion. This list includes completed, submitted and undergoing researches. The data size can be seen organized in the following table:

	Complete	Submitted	Under progress	Total
MPhil	418	19	18	455
PhD	29	6	2	37
Grand total	447	25	20	492

Table 1: Data size thesis at DIS at AIOU

**Stage 4: Charting the data**

The data size chosen for this study is arranged in its chronological order in the following chart. The X-axis shows the number of theses produced and Y-Axis shows their chronological order of theses writing from year 1990 to 2021. From 1990, after around 9 years of the establishment department in 1981, it started producing MPhil & PhD degree. In the graph, year 2020 shows the highest point of time in the history of department producing 4 PhD and 30 MPhil theses. The ratio of PhD vs MPhil theses it is approximately 1:12 respectively. This chart includes the completed theses only.

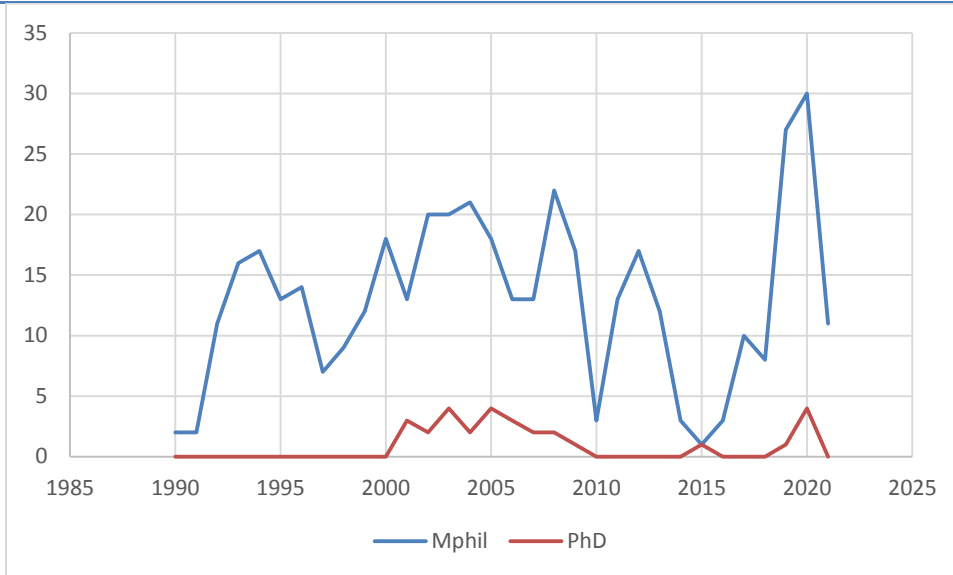


Chart 1: Chronological trend of theses on Iqbal Studies at AIOU

### Stage 5: Collating, Summarizing and Reporting the Results

The scope of this research paper is to analyze the trends of themes in the topics of theses therefore the acquired primary data is charted in various manner to find the answers to the research questions. Firstly, the whole data size of 492 theses is considered as single category, because the topics chosen at MPhil are not repeated or taken for elaborated manner for the PhD level. So once the topic chosen at MPhil for a limited scope of study is not repeated for further elaborated research at PhD level. Therefore, this primary data is studied differently with following 4 major classification of research themes as: theses on Life of Iqbal, Works of Iqbal, Perspectives of Iqbal, works done in the field of Iqbal Studies. These four major areas of themes for theses are further taken under consideration for sub-themes:

Life	Works	Perspectives	Iqbal Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personality</li> <li>• Family</li> <li>• Friends</li> <li>• travels etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prose Works</li> <li>• Poetry Works</li> <li>• Art &amp; Style</li> <li>• Comparion</li> <li>• Influences</li> <li>• Translations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts</li> <li>• Philosopies</li> <li>• Ideologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Publications</li> <li>•Regions</li> <li>•Scholars</li> <li>•Institutions</li> </ul>

**5:1:- Research on Life of Iqbal:** There is one exclusive thesis done on personality of Iqbal as a whole and one on the last 2 years of his life yet there are certain sub-themes focused on his life further marked for research. Some of the titles of the theses are related to the different roles that Iqbal played in his life such as, Iqbal as lawyer, the lawsuit of Iqbal's brother Sheikh Ata

Muhammad, Iqbal as member of legislative council etc. As Dr. Muhammad Iqbal's political life is also research worthy, some theses are on, Evolution of Iqbal's political life, Iqbal's affiliation with Muslim League, Iqbal & Simon Commission, Political movements of Punjab, Khilafat movement, Punjab Political Parties, All-India Kashmir Committee, Documentation on Partition of Subcontinent, Aligarh movement, Mashroiat movement, Colonization of Punjab.

Some theses on life of Iqbal are focused on his relation with his family, such as Sheikh Ata Muhammad, Aftab Iqbal, personalities from Kashmir, his contemporaries from Sialkot, his teachers; about his friends and prominent contemporary figures such as Maharaja Kishan Parashad, Attiya Faizi, Ros Masaud, Muhammad Din Fauq Quaid-e-Azam, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, etc. Some theses are about personalities before his times that influenced Iqbal, such as political figures like Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Poets like Sheikh Mahmud Shabistari, Maulana Rumi etc.

Some other theses on life of Iqbal are about his travel as well such as his journey to Spain, his travels beyond Subcontinent, his stay in Germany, Bahawalpur etc.

### **5:1:-Research on Works of Iqbal:**

Dr. Iqbal had written books in three languages: Urdu, English and Persian. Almost all works of Iqbal are studies in one way or the other, like Articles on Asr-e-Khudi, Lectures, Bang-e-Dara, Pas Cheh Bayaed Kard, Bal-e-Jibreel, Letters, Zarb-e-Kaleem, text books, English works, prose, Asrar-o-Ramooz, Addresses, Armaghan-e-Hijaz, Ilmul Iqtisad, Statements, Metaphysics of Persia, Javidnama, Zaboora, Gulshan-e-Raaz, Bekhudi etc.

Translated works of Iqbal are also some of popular themes of research on Iqbal, such as translations by Abdul Aleem Siddiqui, Punjabi translations of Iqbal's works, translations of Payam-e-Mashriq, Pushto translations of Persian works, English translations of Asrar, translation of letters to Jinnah etc.

Research on the Art and style of Iqbal are like allegorical elements, literary movements, evolution of poem writing, writing Hymns, satire in poetry, Persian poem, Urdu Ghazal, Lexical and linguistic study, Symbolism, Imagery, genres of English poetry etc.

Comparative research is also conducted of Iqbal art and thought with other intellectuals, poets and authors, such as on: Leibniz concept of Monads, Idea of Pakistan by Chotari Rehmat Ali, Saadi's philosophy of Ethics, Moulana Rumi; on poets like: Sufi poets like Khwaja Ghulam Farid, Rehman Baba, Mian Muhammad Baksh, Bulhay Shah, Sultan Bahu, other Sufi poets of Punjab, Iqbal and Urdu poets, Hali, Hafeez Jalendhri, Josh, Mahjoor Kashmiri, Hasrat Mohani, Ghalib, Khwaja Mir Dard, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Noon Meem Rashid, Majeed Ahmad, Mukhtar Siddiqui, Malik-ul Shaura Bahar, Rashid Ahmed Siddiqui, Shakespeare, Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi; Intellectuals and prominent figures like Maulana Ashraf Ali, Aki Shariati, Mojadad Alif Sani, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Allama Iqbal, Ullah Mashriqi, Ibn-e-Temia, Maulana Ubaid Ullah Sindhi, Carl Marks, Abul Kalam Azad, Mahatma Gandhi, Shibli, Syed Jamal-ud-Din Afghani, Imam Ahmed Raza, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Lala Lajpat Roy, Shah-e-Hamedan, Bacha Khan, Allama Muhammad Asadi, Maulana Husain Ahmed Madani; Western poets and thinkers like Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Milton and James Ward etc.

### **5:3- Research on Perspectives of Iqbal:**

A large number of theses found in the list are on the themes addressing different concepts, philosophies and ideas on Iqbal, such as: Political Wisdom of Modern Turkey, Concept of Time,

Two Nations Theory, Concept of Existence and Evidence, Muslim Unity, Criticism in Europe, Role of Women In Islamic Society, Economic Philosophy, Educational Philosophy, Cultural Issues, Psychology of Religion, Existentialism, Futuristic Approach, Preaching Islam, Fine Arts, Issues of Population, Philosophy of Self, Eternity, Humanity, Khilafat-e-Islamia, Romanticism, Prophet Hood, Evolution of Mystic Thoughts, Hard Work, Freedom Of Palestine, Ego & Theory of Relativity, Relationship of Individual & Society, Hadith-E-Nabavi, Concept of Oppression And Fate, Liberalism, Hindu Religion, Slavery, Imperialism, Oneness of God, Revival of Islam, Concept of Love, Downfall of Muslim World, Secularism, Orientalism, End of Prophet-Hood And Parliamentary Ijtihad, Spiritual Democracy, Strength and Resistance, Globalization, Concept of Satan(Iblees), Territorial Integration- Biological Perspective, Concept of Evolution, Muslim Jurisprudence, Feudalism, Absolute Reality, National Renaissance, Metaphysics, Concept of State And Politics, Reconstruction of Mysticism. Muslim Culture, Elements of Physics, Qadianiait etc.

Other than his popular ideas some theses are on the influence of the thoughts and art other poets and literature, such as : Modern Urdu Ghazal, Naseem Hijazi, Murtaza Mutehri, Qurat-ul-ain Haider, Amin Hazeen Sialkoti, Ehsan Danish, Ali Sardar Jaferi, Habib Jalib, Imam Khomeni, Baliti poets, Dr. Fakir Muhammad Faqir etc.

Iqbal's influence on languages and their literatures also studied, such as Pushto, Balouchi, Bangla, Siraiki, Sindhi, and Punjabi etc. Some of these research topics are unique, like a thesis on Abdul Rehman Chughtai's Art on Iqbal's Poetry. One thesis is in Persian on Iqbal and Iran: *Girayeshha-e-Iqbal Dar Iran*.

#### 5:4- Research on contributions in Iqbal Studies:

Iqbal Studies is a vast field. A lot has been done on him at different levels such as by scholars, institutions, journals, regions etc. Research is conducted on these accomplished different areas of Iqbal Studies. Around 76 theses are done on the contributions of Eminent Iqbal Scholar, such as: A.B. Ashraf, Abdul Ghani, Abdul Ghani, Abdul Haq, Abdul Rehman Tariq, Abdul Wahab Azam, Abdul Wahid Moeeni, Abul hasan Nadvi, Abul Lais Siddiqui, Agha Shorash Kashmiri, Akbar Haidari, Akbar Hussain Qureshi, Ali Abbar Jalal Puri, Ali Nahad Tarlan, Al-Sarwar-e-Ahmed, Arshi Amratsari, Asrar Ahmed, Attiya Syed, Gayan Chand, Ayub Sabir, Aziz Ahmed, Bashir Ahmed Dar, Charagh Hasan hasrat, Chohdari Muhammad Hussain, Ejaz-ul-Haque Ejaz, Faqeer Syed Wahid-ud-Din, Ghulam Ahmed Pervaiz, Ghulam Jilani Barq, Ghulam Mehr, Ghulam Mustafa Khan, Haroon /Rasheed Tabassum, Iftikhar Ahmed Siddiqui, Inam-ul Haq Kausar, Irshad Shakir Awan, Jabir Ali Syed, Khawaja Abdul Hamid Irfani, Khurran Ali Shafique, Malik Hasan Akhtar, Mir Abdul Samad, Moeen Ud Din Aqeel, Dr. Abdul Rauf Raffiqui, Muhammad Abdullah Chughtai, Muhammad Ahmed Khan, Muhammad Ali Siddiqui, Muhammad Din Taseer, Muhammad Hamza Farooqi, Muhammad munnawar, Muhammad Rafi-ud-Din, Muhammad Ramzan Gohar, Muhammad Riaz, Muhammad Shafique, Muhammad Sharif baqa, Muhammad Usman, Mumtaz Hasan, Muzaffar Husain Barni, Nazir Qaisar, Nazir Siddiqui, Parveen Shauqat, Rabia Hasan Akhtar, Rabia Hasan, Raheem Bakhsh Shaheen, Sabir Afaqi, Salahud din Ahmed, Saleem /ahmed, Sheikh Abdul Qadir, Sufi Ghulam Mustafa Tabbassum, Suhail Bukhari, Syed Abid Ali, Syed Sultan Mehmood Hussain, Syed Waqar, Taqi Abidi, Tehseen Feraqi, Waheed Akhtar Isharat, Waheed Qureshi, Wazir Agha, Yusuf Husain, Zahoor Ahmed Awan. Out of these 3 theses, on Dr. Muhammad Riaz, Dr. Ayub Sabir and Dr. Abdul Haq, are of PhD level and rest are of MPhil level.

Different books written by these eminent scholars are also analyzed critically as topic of theses, such as Books of Iqbal's Philosophy of Self, Indexes of biographies, Books on Iqbal & Pakistan, biographies on Iqbal, books on Iqbal's Long Poems, books on Iqbal & Quran, books on Iqbal's Lectures. Some of these analyzed works are exclusive Urdu books such as *Malfoozat-e-Iqbal*, *Gufta-e-Iqbal*, *Zinda Rud*, *Shazrat-e-Fiqr-i-Iqbal*, *Sair-e-Afghanistan*, *Mazloom Iqbal*, *Islam Tasawaff aur Iqbal*, *Apna Gireban Chaq*, *Iqbal-e-Kamil*, *Iqbal Aur Jamaliyat*, *Naqd-e-Iqbal*, *Dana-e-Raaz*, *Sar Guzast-e-Iqbal*, *Iqbal Nai Tafheem*, *Iqbal Euroe main*, *Nawader-e-Iqbal Eurap Main*, *Jadeed Tehriqat aur Iqbal*, *Iqbal Mera Hamsafar*, *Iqbal Aur Gujranwala*, *Iqbal Kay Sufiana Fiqr ka Irtaqa*, *Khurshhed ka saman*, *Iqbal aur Bhopal*, *Iqbal Aik Mutalia*, *Auraq-e-Gum Gashta* etc. Whereas some English works and documents on Iqbal are also taken up as research topic, such as: *Gabriel's Wings*, *Islam as Model and Political Idea*, *Iqbal and the Civil and Militry Gazette* etc.

Some of these theses are on contributions of different newspaper such as Daily Dawn, *Jang*, *Ehsan*, *Imruz and Nawa-e-Waqt* etc. Contributions of some periodical, journals and magazines are also taken up as thesis topic such as: *Tarjuman-ul-Quran*, *Mah-e-Nau*, *Khayaban*, *Sahifa*, *Al-Ilm*, *Fanoon*, *Sufi*, *Nairang-e-Kahayl*, *Humayun*, *Chattan*, *Mirat-ul-Arifeen*, *Iqbaliyat*, *Iqbal*, *Payam Ashna*, *Faiz-ul-Islam*, *Auraq*, *Tulu-e-Islam*, *Afkar ka Moallam*, *Al-Zubair*, *Nigar*, *Nazaria-e-Pakistan*, *Burhan*, *Alhamra*, *Al-Maarif*, *Qaumi Zaban*, *Jamia*, *Akhbar-e-Urdu*, *Faqr-o-Nazar*, *Iqbal Review*(Hayderabad) etc.

Some theses are specific to the contributions from different regions such as: Multan, NWFP, Baluchistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Kashmir, DG Khan, Bahawalpur, Gujrat, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Occupied Kashmir etc. Similarly, contributions of some institutions in Iqbal Studies are also studies, such as Institutions: Markazia Majlis-e-Iqbal, Non-Government Organizations, and Oriental College etc.

### Women & Iqbal Studies:

Out of 492 thesis listed, following numbers are significant in term of Research on women and Iqbal Studies conducted and their percentage of contribution is also given:

- 190 thesis are by female researches (some names are uni-gender to be identified). =38.77%
- 29 thesis are supervised by Female supervisors: Dr. Kalsoom Siraj(02), Dr. Noreena Tehreem Baber(15), Dr. Qamar Sultana(03), Dr. Saeeda Iqbal(02), Dr Farhat Naz(01), Dr. Rubina Tareen(04), Dr. Rubina Shafeeq(01), Dr. Najeeba Arif(01). =5.98%
- Only 01 thesis is co-supervised a by a female expert Dr. Samina Awan(1). =0.20%
- Only 01 thesis is done on the contributions of a female Iqbal expert: Rabia HasanAkhta. =0.20%
- Only 01 thesis is done on the theme of Women Studies that is on Women's position in Muslim Society. =0.20%

### Summary:

40 years (1981-2021) old department of Iqbal Studies has done remarkable work in the field of Iqbal. Some topics are of basic nature adding value to the existing knowledge with respect to Iqbal Studies. Most of the research topics are on the contributions of others especially Iqbal experts and publications in the field of Iqbal's Studies. As Iqbal is a universal poet, some of the topics cover international scenarios as well. Most of thesis produced are in Urdu language, only a

few titles are in English and one title is in Persian language. As AIOU is a distant learning university, supervisor like supervisees are from All over Pakistan of diversity in the regional perspective of studies. Situation of Women and research in the field of Iqbal Studies is clear from above number. There is significant presence of female scholars interested in the research in the field of Iqbal studies but their presence as expert supervisor or co supervisor is non-significant. Moreover, research in the themes of Women and Gender Studies are almost none.

### Recommendations:

- A national level repository of titles even database on thesis of MPhil, PhD theses from all different fields of learning should be developed to avoid repetition.
- Research done on other famous poets of national and international repute in the world like on Ferdousi from Persian, Shakespeare from English and Goethe from German can be mapped to find the existing trends of research.
- More comparative studies can done.
- SDGs of UN like Women and Gender Studies, environmental issues etc. can also considered as research themes.
- New dimensions of Iqbal perspectives can be explored.
- There should be reduced inequalities among gender in the field of research.
- Equal learning and performing opportunities should be given to women.
- Contributions of more experts may be acknowledged through research.

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