



**Independent Joint Anti-Corruption
Monitoring & Evaluation Committee**

SUMMARY OF THE VCA ON UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION

1. Background

The issue of universities' internal examinations is of major importance for universities, in order to improve teaching quality and to pave the way evenly for all students. Internal examination processes within Afghan universities and higher education institutions are vulnerable to corruption, especially considering the increasing the number of students and the limited capacity of the higher education institutions and their human resources, such as qualified and experienced lecturers. Therefore, conducting a vulnerability assessment in this working area was necessary.

2. VCA Findings

Finding of the assessment shows that the universities, in coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), have developed some regulations and manuals on organization of internal examination processes, and introduced some lecturers to international universities out of the country to ensure the enhancement of the capacity of lecturers. It seems that the efforts of the universities and MoHE have generally resulted in improvements and enhancement of the universities' capacities. However, due to extensive vulnerabilities to corruption in the examination process, higher education institutions are still suffering from corruption and the efforts mentioned above are not enough to mitigate it. Some of key vulnerabilities in the process are outlined below.

3. Vulnerabilities to Corruption

The evaluation resulted in clear identification of points in the internal examination process that are vulnerable to corruption. Vulnerabilities highlighted in the assessment include:

- (1) Weak legal framework in the process.
- (2) Violation of regulations by lecturers.
- (3) Substandard methods of teaching.
- (4) Interference in the process by high-ranking Government officials.
- (5) Weak monitoring and oversight mechanisms.
- (6) Tribal, national, linguistic, and religious prejudices in the course of internal examinations.
- (7) Physical violations by lecturers against students.
- (8) Abuse of internal exams by lecturers for personal benefits.
- (9) Opportunities for buying questionnaires through bribery.
- (10) Outdated methods of filing and information management systems.



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4. Recommendations

The recommendations for assessed areas of the internal examination process include:

- (1) Adoption of the Higher Education Law by the National Assembly.
- (2) Developing and reforming policies, procedures, and regulations for higher education institutions, particularly with respect to internal examinations.
- (3) Monitoring and oversight of the lecture processes of instructors.
- (4) Implementing reform with respect to the appointment of lecturers.
- (5) Designing and implementing educational schemes to enhance capacity-building for instructors and staff.
- (6) Developing monitoring mechanisms in universities' internal examinations stage.
- (7) Reforming the current system of archives, in order to guarantee the safety and confidentiality of documents and information.
- (8) Computerizing the filing and information management systems involved in the examination process.
- (9) Designing a policy to avoid external interference in the examination process.

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