

## Competency Based Ranking - A future for Saudi Universities Ranking

In the previous post "**pertinence of university rankings**" I have explicitly discussed about the importance of academic rankings for different stakeholders around the globe.

Apparently, quality improvement is a continuous process, thus the ranking agencies update their methodologies periodically.

I have reviewed about 20 international ranking agencies but hardly anyone took student competency as a criterion. Although, these rankings are broadly based on normally six criteria or more, predominantly covering teaching, research, employability, community development, internationalization and partnership.

Absence or ignorance of level of competency analyzed by the ranking agencies, costing those universities or institutions which are producing quality graduates as per the market demand moreover these graduates are ready to give results as soon as they join the organization, as compare to those students where competency based learning is not taken into account. They might be ranked better, based on the ranking agencies' criteria which is not displaying the correct picture of university rankings by not taking competency-based learning into consideration.

One may argue that employability or employers' reputation survey of QS or THE could be a substitute of competency based learning criteria. Which is not true since employability counts the total students employed in the previous year while employer reputation is a survey-based collection of views of the employers without any concrete evidences.

Hence, it is suggested to world universities ranking agencies to rank institutions with competency criteria among others and for Saudi Universities or Saudi Arabia Ranking (SAR) competency based ranking would be more transparent and would be able to rank the top universities following the highest standard of quality in the Kingdom.