

Interview Guide – PhD Education Challenges

Title: Semi-Structured Interview Guide – Challenges in PhD Medical Education (Iran)

Introduction to Participants: We really appreciate you taking the time to join this interview. Our goal is to gain insight into your thoughts and experiences regarding the structural and supervisory hurdles you encounter during your PhD journey. Rest assured, your answers will remain confidential.

Part 1: General Information

- What age group do you fall into? (Optional: e.g., 30–35)
- What's your area of study?
- Which year are you currently in within your PhD program?

Part 2: Supervisory Experience

- How would you characterize your relationship with your PhD supervisor?
- What challenges have you faced in getting guidance from your supervisor?
- Can you share a moment when you felt either supported or unsupported by your supervisor?
- Do you feel your supervisor is available and responsive enough to meet your needs?

Part 3: Structural/Educational System Challenges

- What parts of the educational structure have either helped or hindered your progress in the PhD program?
- How do administrative or institutional policies affect your research work?
- Have you dealt with delays, miscommunication, or a lack of transparency during your PhD experience?
- Are there enough academic resources, facilities, and support systems available to you?

Part 4: Coping & Suggestions

- What strategies do you use to navigate these challenges?
- If you could propose changes to enhance PhD education in your field, what would they be?

Closing

- Is there anything else you'd like to add about your experience in the PhD program?