

Dr. Sara Aqiq

PhD in Education (Honours)

Specialization: Educational Leadership

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I hold a PhD in Education with Honours, with a specialization in Educational Leadership, and possess over seven years of experience in higher education teaching, research supervision, curriculum development, and academic service. My research focuses on teacher leadership, classroom climate, higher education, educational innovation, and evidence-based educational practices that contribute to teaching excellence, student engagement, and institutional effectiveness.

Throughout my academic career, I have taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses, supervised graduate research, and contributed to curriculum development and scholarly research. My academic work employs quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research approaches to investigate contemporary issues in educational leadership and higher education. My research has been published in peer-reviewed journals, reflecting my commitment to producing rigorous and meaningful scholarship that informs educational practice and contributes to the advancement of the field.

My academic philosophy is founded on the integration of research, teaching, and service. I am committed to creating inclusive, intellectually engaging, and student-centred learning environments that foster critical thinking, reflective practice, and lifelong learning. As an educator and researcher, I seek to contribute to academic excellence through high-quality teaching, impactful research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and meaningful academic service.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Education (Honours) from National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, Pakistan
September 2018 – September 2025

- **Specialization:** Educational Leadership
- **Dissertation:** *Impact of Teacher Leaders on Classroom Climate at Higher Education Level*
- **Thesis:** Graduated with **Honours**

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Education from National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, Pakistan
September 2014 – December 2017

- **Specialization:** Educational Psychology
- **Dissertation:** *An Analytical Study of Emotional Intelligence and Stress Management Skills among University Teachers*
- **Overall Grade:** A2
- **Dissertation Grade:** A1

Master of Arts (MA) in Education from National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, Pakistan
September 2012 – June 2014

- **Specialization:** Educational Psychology
- **Research Project:** *Gender-Based Comparative Study of Interpersonal Intelligence among Secondary School Students in Islamabad*
- **Research Project Grade:** A

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Resource Person at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad, Pakistan
April 2019 – Present

Responsibilities

- Supervise graduate research projects in Education.
- Guide students in research design, instrument development, data analysis, and academic writing.
- Evaluate research proposals, assignments, and dissertations.
- Contribute to undergraduate curriculum development, including Early Childhood Education (ECE).
- Provide academic mentoring and research guidance to undergraduate and graduate students.

Lecturer at National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, Pakistan
September 2022 – June 2023

Responsibilities

- Taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Educational Leadership, Educational Psychology, Human Development, Research Methodology, Educational Administration, and Organizational Behaviour.
- Designed and updated course materials in accordance with university standards.
- Assessed student learning through examinations, assignments, presentations, and research-based assessments.
- Supervised student research and provided guidance on SPSS, research methodology, and academic writing.
- Integrated ICT and learner-centred teaching strategies to enhance student engagement.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

I have experience teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses across diverse areas of education, including Educational Leadership, Educational Psychology, Human Development, Research Methodology, Educational Statistics, Curriculum Development, Assessment and Evaluation, Educational Administration, and Organizational Behaviour. My teaching approach emphasizes active learning, critical thinking, research-informed instruction, and the integration of technology to create engaging and inclusive learning environments. I am committed to supporting students' academic development through effective mentoring, constructive feedback, and evidence-based teaching practices.

RESEARCH PROFILE

Educational Leadership is the principal focus of my research, with an emphasis on teacher leadership, classroom climate, higher education, and educational innovation. My scholarly work examines how leadership practices, supportive learning environments, and evidence-informed educational strategies enhance teaching effectiveness, student engagement, and institutional performance. Building upon a strong academic foundation in Educational Psychology, my research also explores the role of emotional intelligence and behavioural factors in improving teaching, learning, and professional practice.

My research experience spans quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches, with particular experience in survey research, questionnaire development, statistical data analysis using SPSS, and the interpretation of empirical findings. Through this work, I aim to contribute to educational research that informs policy, strengthens professional practice, and supports the continuous improvement of higher education.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Educational Leadership.
- Teacher Leadership.
- Higher Education.
- Classroom Climate.
- Educational Psychology.
- Emotional Intelligence.
- Educational Innovation.
- Student Engagement.
- Teacher Professional Development.
- Educational Management.
- Research Methodology

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. **Aqiq, S.,** & Nudrat, S. (2024). Leaders in classroom: Exploring classroom climate strategies practiced by teacher leaders at university level. *Journal of Contemporary Trends and Issues in Education*, 3(2), 24–49. <https://doi.org/10.55628/jctie.v3i2.127>
2. **Aqiq, S.,** Begum, J., Abbassi, S., Abbasi, N. S., & Shahzadi, E. (2023). Comparative analysis of emotional stability among university teachers. *International Journal of Multicultural Education*, 25(2), 928–942.
3. Begum, J., Bibi, A., Shoukat, H., **Aqiq, S.,** & Chaudhry, A. (2023). A study of the need and importance of guidance and counseling in the school education system of Pakistan: A systematic literature review. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 7(2), 183–194.
4. Zaheer, S., Minas, R., **Aqiq, S.,** & Ali, M. Q. (2020). Identifying socio-emotional learning strategies for peace through education: A qualitative analysis. *Jahan-e-Tahqeeq*, 3(4).
5. **Aqiq, S.,** & Zaheer, S. (2018). Comparative study on stress management skills among university teachers. *Research Journal of Pakistan Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education*, 1(1), 39–51.

COURSES TAUGHT

Over the course of my academic career, I have taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses across a broad range of disciplines in education. These include:

- Educational Leadership
- Educational Administration
- Organizational Behaviour
- Educational Psychology
- Human Development
- Research Methodology
- Introduction to SPSS
- Test, Assessment and Evaluation in Education
- Curriculum Development
- Modern Pedagogical Skills
- Teaching of Natural Sciences
- Communication Skills

GRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Provided academic supervision and research guidance to undergraduate and graduate students in the field of Education, supporting all stages of the research process, including topic selection,

proposal development, literature review, research design, questionnaire development, data analysis using SPSS, interpretation of findings, and academic writing.

Research supervision experience includes:

- Supervised **50+** graduate research projects in Education.
- Guided students in quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research.
- Provided mentorship in research methodology and statistical data analysis using SPSS.
- Reviewed and evaluated research proposals, dissertations, assignments, and academic reports.
- Supported students in preparing research manuscripts and academic presentations.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Contributed to curriculum planning, course development, and the continuous improvement of teaching and learning practices within higher education.

Key contributions include:

- Developed and updated course outlines in accordance with university academic standards.
- Participated in the design and revision of instructional materials.
- Contributed to undergraduate curriculum development activities, including Early Childhood Education (ECE) programmes at Allama Iqbal Open University.
- Integrated learner-centred and technology-supported instructional strategies into course planning.
- Promoted outcome-based learning and continuous assessment practices.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Actively contributed to academic and institutional responsibilities that support teaching quality, student development, and research culture.

Responsibilities include:

- Academic advising and student mentoring.
- Evaluation of research proposals, assignments, and graduate research projects.
- Participation in examination, assessment, and quality assurance activities.
- Collaboration in curriculum review and academic planning.
- Promotion of ethical research practices and academic integrity.
- Contribution to departmental academic activities and professional development initiatives.

CONFERENCES

- **Presenter**, National Conference on Education (NCE-2020), National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, Pakistan (2020).

Paper Presented: An Analytical Study on Emotional Intelligence and Stress Management Skills among University Teachers.

- **Presenter**, 1st International Conference on Challenges of Education in Pakistan (ICCEP-2019), University of Haripur, Pakistan (2019).
- **Participant**, 4th International Conference on Research & Practices in Education (ICRPE-2019), Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad (2019).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATIONS & ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Mastering Quantitative Data Analysis: From SPSS Basic to AMOS Advanced Modelling**, Pakistan Economics Frontier (2025).
- **Faculty Development Programme (Level-I)**, Executive Development Centre, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad (2022).
- **Teaching Excellence & Achievement (TEA) Professional Development Programme**, Regional English Language Office (RELO), U.S. Embassy in Pakistan & Evolution (2020).
- **Introduction to Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)**, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad (2019).
- **Professional Development Faculty Workshop: Towards a New Paradigm in Education**, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad (2014).
- **Management Committee Member**, NUML International Conference on Quality Higher Education (ICQHE-2014), National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad (2014).

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Teaching & Academic Skills

- Higher Education Teaching
- Curriculum Development
- Graduate Research Supervision
- Student Mentoring
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Learner-Centred Teaching Strategies

Research Skills

- Quantitative Research (through SPSS)
- Qualitative Research
- Mixed Methods Research
- Survey Research
- Questionnaire Development
- SPSS Data Analysis
- Statistical Data Interpretation
- Academic Writing
- Peer-Reviewed Publication

ACADEMIC HONOURS & DISTINCTIONS

- **PhD in Education (Honours)** – National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad.
- **Awarded Grade A** for the **MPhil Dissertation** titled *An Analytical Study of Emotional Intelligence and Stress Management Skills among University Teachers*.
- **Awarded Grade A** for the **Master's Research Project** titled *Gender-Based Comparative Study of Interpersonal Intelligence among Secondary School Students in Islamabad*.
- Author of multiple peer-reviewed research publications in national and international academic journals.

LANGUAGES

- English (Professional Working Proficiency)
- Urdu (Native Proficiency)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.