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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

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HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

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ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC STAFF MOTIVATION IN PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS: A CASE STUDY OF SELECTED PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS FOUND IN ADAMA TOWN

MESSELE KUMILACHEW AGA LECTURER DEPARTMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS & VALUE CHAIN MANAGEMENT ADAMA SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY ADAMA

ABSTRACT

Academic staffs are key resources to higher education institutions. Even though motivation of academic staff in higher education institutions is as important as the blood for sustaining human life, private higher education institutions are not giving attention to motivate their academic staffs. This is why the study aimed at assessment of academic staff motivation in private higher education institutions and its implication for quality education. Academic staffs in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town were taken as target population for this study. Of seven private higher education institutions found in Adama Town three were selected purposively because of their long term experience in the industry. Of the total permanent academic staff 70 were taken as a sample size and simple random sampling was used in order to select sample respondents for the study. The findings of this study revealed that majority of the academic staffs were not motivated. Amount of salary paid to them was low as compared to other industries; there was no effective performance appraisal system that fosters promotional opportunities and recognition. As a result, their motivational level to perform what have been expected from them in teaching-learning process was low. The researcher recommended for the owners (management) of private higher education institutions to inculcate factors motivating academic staffs to strengthen the quality of education.

KEYWORDS

Motivation, Academic staff, Private Higher Education Institutions.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

otivation refers to the forces within a person that affect his or her direction, intensity, and persistence of voluntary behavior. Motivated employees are willing to exert a particular level of effort (intensity), for certain amount of time (persistence), toward a particular goal (direction). Even when people have clear objectives, the right skills, and a supportive work environment, they must have sufficient motivation to achieve work objectives (Mcshane and Mary Ann Von, 2003). "Motivation is the force that makes people chooses a particular job, stay with that job and work hard in that job" (Lin, 2007). Work motivation refers to the psychological processes that influence individual behavior with respect to the attainment of workplace goals and tasks. The received wisdom among occupational psychologists is that 'pay on its own does not increase motivation'. However, pecuniary motives are likely to be dominant among teachers in those developing countries where pay and other material benefits are too low for individual and household survival needs to be met. Only when these basic needs have been met is it possible for 'higher-order' needs, which are the basis of true job satisfaction, to be realized. A key empirical issue is therefore to establish the extent of this problem (Bennell, 2004). According to Michaelowa (2002), teacher motivation is defined as the willingness, derive or desire to engage in good teaching.

The current Ethiopian government recognizes the importance of education for national development. Policy is mainly aimed at expanding the education sector, improving quality and ensuring that educational content is harmonized with the country's economic needs. The number of higher education institutions are increasing and the intake capacity of these institutions are also increasing. Private higher education has also increased as part of a general liberalization of parts of the economy; there are now approximately 66 private institutions offering undergraduate degree programs in Ethiopia and the private sector accounts for approximately 25 percent of the country's undergraduate enrolments. Although the government recognizes that it needs the private sector if it is to meet its targets for the expansion of higher education, there is a noticeable sense of distrust amongst civil servants and ministers who sometimes categorize private universities and colleges as 'diploma mills.' And different scholars forwarded the severe problem of quality education in PHEIs of Ethiopia. According to Tenna (2011), Quality of education has become a recurrent topic of discussions and researchers. Therefore, the motivation of academic staffs of the PHEIs is the foremost stakeholder for ensuring quality of education.

The academic staffs of higher education institution are a key resource to institution's success. Academic staff, in particular, accounts for a significant component of the budget of higher education institutions and has a major role to play in achieving the objectives of the institution. The performance of academic staff, both as teachers and researchers and also as managers, determines, to a large extent, the quality of the students' experience of higher education and has a significant impact on students learning and thereby on the contribution that such institutions can make to society (Werkneh and Shimelis, 2010). If academic staffs of PHEIs are motivated, they will not only feels satisfied with his or her job, but also they are empowered to strive for excellence and quality of education for their institution. The issue of teacher motivation is important because of its correlation with the quality of education (Javaid, 2009). There are many motivational factors that induce academic staff in PHEIs. These might be working environment, supervisor relations, company itself, recognition, opportunity for development and growth, and pay and benefits. Therefore, this study attempted to identify factors that motivate academic staff and examine current motivational level of academic staff in Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) found in Adama Town.

1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Education is the backbone of any government. Cognizant with this, Ethiopian PHEIs are making significant contribution towards increasing access to higher education and creating employment opportunities for citizens (Wossenu and Mulu, 2012). There are concerns among different stakeholders on the quality of education provided by Ethiopian PHEIs. 'Quality education for all' is the motto towards which the government of Ethiopia is currently working. Although there are number of factors that affect the quality of education the role of academic staff is placed in the front line.

According to Shaheen Imrab et al. (2013) competent and knowledgeable academicians are considered an important strength of any educational institutions. Teaching is very scared profession and teachers have a great role in their students' intellectual, personal, and social development, there by influencing the future nation's development. Given the importance of academic staff in higher education institutions, this problem has potentially significant ramifications for the nation's future development. Therefore, knowing how academic staff are paid, valued and treated is very important to consider the quality of education in PHEIs.

According to Grayling (2002), although teaching is an honorable engagement, it has never been a highly paid profession. The current study on the motivational level of PHEIs in Ethiopia is low as compared to its counterpart of government higher education institutions and other industries. Recent studies have shown that low morale and job dissatisfaction are significant problems identified in academic staffs who teach in PHEIs in Ethiopia.

A review of empirical studies on teacher motivation in developing countries indicates widespread low or decreasing levels of motivation, resulting in lower quality of education (Guajardo, 2011). Research indicates that higher teacher motivation is significantly linked to improved student learning outcomes. This reveals that motivated academic staff has a direct impact on assuring the quality of education. Only the motivated, skilled and knowledgeable academic staff can give glorious position to the institution and the country's development. Many outstanding teachers in the private higher education institutions leave teaching in the first three years because of lack of motivational factors (Frase, 1992). Motivation of university teachers is as important as the blood for sustaining human

life. Even though, the problem is known that there is low academic staff motivation in Ethiopian private higher education institutions, there has been limited research to understand the causes for low motivation and factors motivating academic staff in Ethiopian private higher education institutions. Therefore, this research identified factors affecting motivational level of instructors who teach in PHEIs and its impact on quality education, taking academic staff of PHEIs found in Adama Town as case study.

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In this research, the following research questions were answered;

- To what extent academic staffs of Private Higher Education Institutions are motivated to their job?
- What are the important factors affecting academic staff motivation in Private Higher Education Institutions found in Adama Town?
- What is the motivation level of academic staff to perform activities that ensure education quality in Private Higher Education Institutions?

1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of this study is to asses motivational level of academic staff in Private Higher Education Institutions found in Adama Town.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY WERE

- 1. To examine the motivational level of academic staff of Private Higher Education Institutions
- 2. To identify important factors affecting academic staff motivation in Private Higher Education Institutions
- 3. To examine the synergies between motivation level and educational quality in Private Higher Education Institutions

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Motivation of academic staff in higher education is as important as the blood for sustaining human life. If academic staff of PHEIs are motivated and work with dedication they can produce competent, skillful graduates that can help the nation's development. Therefore, this study will allow the owner of PHEIs in Adama to consider and revise the current motivational systems used for their academic staff and to recognize and realize the significance of motivational factors for promoting and enhancing motivational level of their academicians. PHEIs can improve the quality of education by maintaining experienced teaching staff if they provide good motivational factors and it could be possible to retain outstanding academic staff and assure quality of education delivered via motivated academic staffs. It could also be relevant to the future researchers to use the findings of this study as the secondary sources and may encourage other researchers to undertake an in-depth investigation related with academic staff motivation in Ethiopian PHEIs.

2. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This study is aimed to find out factors that motivate the academic staff members of private higher education institutions (PHEIs) and the current motivational level of academic staff in PHEIs found in Adama Town. This study was conducted in the private educational sector found in Oromia Regional State of Adama Town, Ethiopia. There are a total of seven PHEIs currently operating in Adama Town. Out of which three PHEIs; namely Unity University, Rift Valley University College, and Royal University College were selected purposively because of their relative long term experience in education. There are total of 100 permanent academic staffs in the three selected PHEIs found in Adama Town. From tabulated values of different sample sizes, a population of 100 individuals requires a minimum sample size of 80 for a 95% confidence level at 5% margin of error (Saunders, et al, 2009). Therefore, a simple random sampling technique was used to select 80 respondents for the study. Self-administered questionnaire was used as the primary data collection technique for the academic staff selected as sample respondents and focused group discussion was conducted with senior academic staffs who have been serving in PHEIs for more five years. From the 80 distributed questionnaires 70 of them were returned back and feasible for analysis (that is 87.5% response rate). The analysis was done both descriptively and inferentially using statistical software called SPSS version 16. Finally, the summaries are presented in the form of tables, bar graph, pie chart, frequency counts, and percentage and interpreted in line with the objectives of the study.

3. MAJOR FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section describes the major findings of the research and discussions of the major findings are followed.

TABLE 1.1: PROFILE OF ACADEMIC STAFF (RESPONDENTS)

S/N <u>o</u>	Variables	Options	Frequency	Percentage		
1	Sex	Male	66	94.3		
		Female	4	5.7		
		Total	70	100		
2	Age in years	20-25	13	18.6		
		26-30	42	60		
		31-35	11	15.7		
		Above 35	4	5.7		
		Total	70	100		
3	Marital Status	Married	33	47.10		
		Single	36	51.40		
		Divorce	1	1.40		
		Windowed	0	0		
		Total	70	100		
4	Educational Level	TVET/Diploma	12	17.14		
	1	Degree	32	45.70		
		Masters	24	34.30		
		PhD	2	2.86		
		Total	70	100		
5	Academic Status	Laboratory Assistant	3	4.30		
		Graduate Assistant I	6	8.60		
		Graduate Assistant II	8	11.40		
		Assistant Lecture	14	20		
		Lecturer	36	51.40		
		Assistant Professor	2	2.90		
		Associate Professor	1	1.40		
		Total	70	100		
6	Year of Service	Less than 1 year	14	20		
		1-5 years	34	48.60		
		6-10 years	16	22.90		
		Above 10 years	6	8.60		
		Total	70	100		

Source: Author's Survey, 2014

The above table (Table 1.1) shows the profile of academic staff participated in responding the questionnaire distributed. Sex, age, marital status, educational level, academic status, and year of service are respectively elaborated on the table. Accordingly, from the total number academic staffs, 94.3% of them were males and only 5.7% were females; majority of the respondents (60%) were categorized under the age group of 26-30 years old. And the next age group in which the respondents categorized was 20-25 years. And only 5.7% of the respondents were above 35 years old. From this it is possible to conclude that majority of the academic staff in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town were youngsters.

Besides, the above table revealed that 51.4% of the respondents were single and 47.10% were married and only 1.40% was divorced. Educational status of the academic staffs revealed that 45.70% were first degree holders, 34.30% were masters' holders, 17.14% TVET/Diploma holders, and only 2.86% were PhD holders. This figure depict that majority of the academic staffs in private higher education in Adama Town were first degree holder and second degree holder respectively. And only few of the academic staff possesses PhD. Consequently, their academic status is lecturer (51.4%) and assistant lecturer (20%). Finally, years of service disclosed that majority of the respondents served their institution 1-5 years (48.60%), followed by 6-10 years (22.90%), below 1 year (20%), and only 8.60% served above 10 years.

In net shell, majority of the academic staffs in private higher education found in Adama Town were males (94.3%), categorized in the age group of youngster (26-30 years), their marital status were single (51.40%), educational status first degree holder (45.70%), academic rank lecturer (51.4%), and served the institution from 1-5 years (48.60%).

TABLE 1.2: RESPONDENTS MONTHLY SALARY AND ITS COMPARISON WITH OTHER INDUSTRIES

Monthly salary in Ethiopian Birr	Comparison of Salary with other Industries									Total		
	Very low		Low		Medium		High		Very High			
	Fr. % Fr. %		%	Fr. %		Fr. %		Fr.	%	Fr.	%	
Below 1000	1	1.43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.43
1000-3000	12	17.14	16	22.86	6	8.57	0	0	0	0	34	48.57
3001-5000	3	4.29	11	15.71	11	15.71	0	0	0	0	25	35.71
5001-7000	3	4.29	2	2.86	3	4.29	1	1.43	0	0	9	12.86
above 7000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.43	0	0	1	1.43
Total	19	27.15	29	41.43	20	28.57	2	2.86	0	0	70	100

Source: Author's Survey, 2014

Table 1.2 indicates monthly salary earned by the academic staffs in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town and how they viewed their salary in comparison to other industries. Accordingly, majority of them paid 1000-3000 birr (48.57%), followed by 3001-5000 birr 35.71% of respondents earned. Only 1.43% of the academic staff earned above 7000 birr and below 1000 birr. The respondents compared their salary as it was low (41.43%), very low (27.15%), and medium (28.57%). Only 2 respondents (2.86%) replied as their salary was high and no respondents replied the salary paid to him/her was very high compared to other industries.

From the above table (table 1.2) it is possible to conclude that even though majority of the academic staff (48.57%) paid 1000-3000 birr, they compared their salary as it was low and very low (68.58%). This indicates that academic staffs are not satisfied with their salary which directly influences their motivational level.

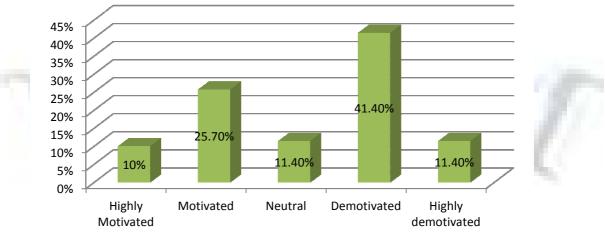
TABLE 1.3: POSITION HOLDER AND THEIR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION TO POSITION ALLOWANCE

				Whethe					
				Yes		No	Total		
		Fr.	%	Fr.	%	Fr.	%	Fr.	%
Position Holder vs non-holder	Yes	27	38.57	4	14.81	23	85.19	27	100
	No	43	61.43						
Total		70	100						

Source: Author's Survey, 2014

Table 1.3 depicts that whether the position holder satisfied or not with the position allowance paid to them. As shown above only 27 (38.57%) of respondents were position holder from the total respondents. From the total position holder only 4 (14.81%) respondents were satisfied with the position allowance paid to them, but the remaining 23 (85.19%) were not satisfied with the position allowance. Therefore, from this table it is possible to conclude that majority of academic staffs who holds position in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town were not satisfied with their position allowance.

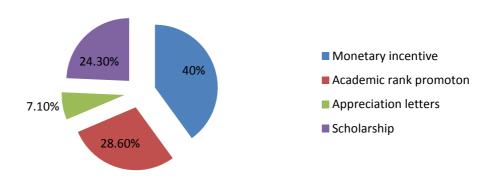
FIGURE 1.1: MOTIVATION LEVEL OF ACADEMIC STAFF



Source: Author's Survey, 2014

Figure 1.1. above shows the motivation level of academic staff in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town. The figure depicted that majority of the respondents (41.40%) were demotivated and 11.4% were highly demotivated with their current job. This means about 52.8% of the respondnets replied that they are not motivated in teaching in private higher education institutions. And the remaining 25.70%, 11.40%, and 10% of the respondnets said they are motivated, neutral, and highly motivated with their job respectively. From this we can conclude that majority of academic staffs in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town have less motivational level in their job.

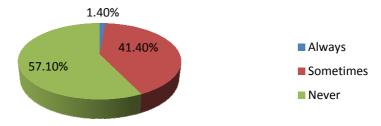
FIGURE 1.2: TYPES OF INCENTIVES MOTIVATES ACADEMIC STAFF



Source: Author's Survey, 2014

Figure 1.2. above revealed that the types of incetives motivates more the private higher education institutions found in Adama Town. Accordingly, majority of the respondnets (40%) were motivated with monetary incentives, followed by academic rank promotion that 28.60% of them said, and 24.30% motivated if scholarship is given for their career development. But only 7.10% of the respondnets replied that apprecaition letters motiated them. From this it is possible

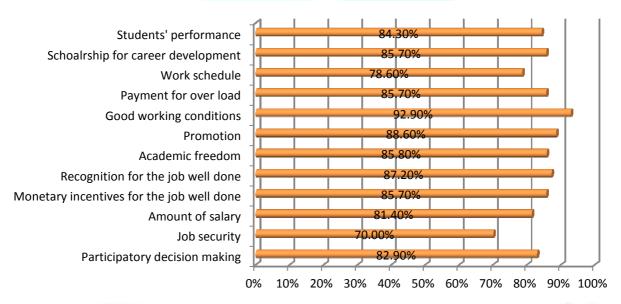
FIGURE 1.3: EXISTENCE OF RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES



Source: Author's Survey, 2014

Figure 1.3 requested whether private higher education institutions recognize outstanding academic staff or not. Accordingly, majority of the respondents (57.10%) replied that they have never seen when outstanding academic staffs were recognized. Followed by 41.40% said sometimes there is recognition of outstanding employees, but only 1.4% replied as always outstanding employees recognized in their institution. From this one can conclude that private higher education institutions in Adama Town have not create atmosphere competition among academic staffs by recognizing outstanding employees.

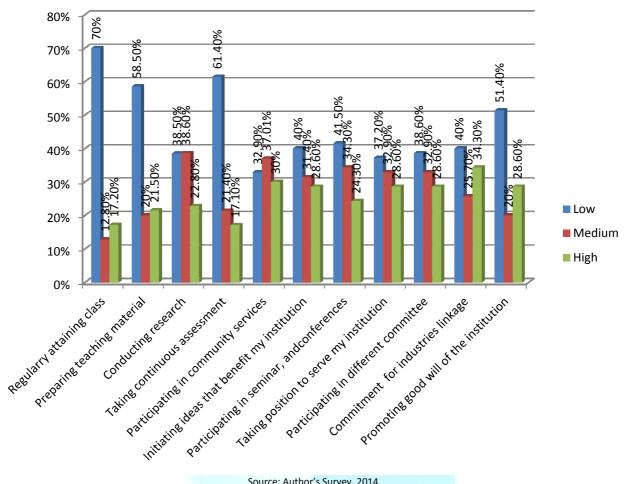
FIGURE 1.4: FACTORS INFLUENCING MOTIVATION LEVEL OF ACADEMIC STAFF (% OF ACADEMIC STAFFS WHO WERE RESPONDED AS THE FACTORS ARE IMPORTANT AND VERY IMPORTANT FOR THEIR MOTIVATIONAL LEVEL)



Source: Author's Survey

The above figure (Figure 1.4) revealed factors affecting motivational level of academic staff in private higher education institutions. The above factors asked the respondents to rate the impact of aforementioned factors on their motivational level by five point likert's scale (i.e. Very unimportant, unimportant, Neutral, Important, Very important). Accordingly, figure 1.4 reveals percentage respondents who replied as the factors are very important and important to their motivational level. The findings of the above graph shows above average respondents witnessed that all factors are important for their motivational level. As depicted on the figure good working condition ranked first by majority of respondents (92.90%), followed by academic rank promotion (88.60%), and then recognition for the job well done (87.20%). Relatively job security (70.00%), work schedule (78.60%0, and amount salary (81.40) respectively responded by a few respondents. From this one can conclude that good working conditions, academic rank promotion, and recognition for the job well done are the most influential factors of motivation in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town.

FIGURE 4.5: LEVEL OF ACADEMIC STAFF MOTIVATION TO PERFORM DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTING TO QUALITY EDUCATION



Source: Author's Survey, 2014

The above figure (Figure 4.5) depicts the level of academic staff motivation towards performing different activities in their institutions. Eleven performance activities of academic staff were identified and asked whether they possessed high motivation, medium, or low. Accordingly majority of the respondents replied that their motivation level to all performing activities shown on the figure was low. Except for four performing activities (regularly attaining class, preparing teaching material, commitment for industries linkage, and promoting good will of the institution to stake holders) the response of the respondents were revealed that they have medium motivational level. The aforementioned activities are factors determining quality of education. But as shown in the figure in all the performance activities the motivation level of academic staff in private higher education institutions were low. From this it is possible to conclude that the quality of education given in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town was questionable since the academic staff motivation was low to perform performance activities those influence the quality of education.

TABLE 4.5: LEVEL OF AGREEMENT OF RESPONDENTS FOR EXISTENCE OF MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS

Motivational Factors					Leve	el of Agi	reeme	nt				
	Strongly disagree		Strongly disagree Disag		agree Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree		Total	
	Fr.	%	Fr.	%	Fr.	%	Fr.	%	Fr.	%	Fr.	%
Existence of reasonable periodical increase in salary	27	38.6	22	31.4	7	10	8	11.4	6	8.6	70	100
Existence of effective performance appraisal system	14	20	21	30	13	18.6	13	18.6	9	12.8	70	100
Existence of effective promotional opportunities	16	22.9	24	34.3	12	17.1	11	15.7	7	10	70	100
Existence of equal pay for equal work	20	28.6	14	20	12	17.1	14	20	10	14.3	70	100

Source: Author's Survey, 2014

Table 4.5 reveals the level of agreement of academic staff in private higher education found in Adama Town regarding the existence of motivational factors. Accordingly, majority of the respondents (70%) disagree with the existence of reasonable periodical increase in salary, 10% of the respondents were neutral for the statement and only 20% of them agree with its existence. Regarding the existence of effective performance appraisal system 50% of the respondents were disagreeing, 18.6% neutral, and 31.4% agree. Besides, the table also disclosed whether effective promotional opportunities existed or not. Accordingly, 57.2% of respondents disagree with its existence, 17.1% neutral, and 34.3% agree with the existence of effective promotional opportunities. Finally, 48.6% of the respondents replied as they disagree with the existence of equal pay for equal work, 17.1% neutral, and 34.3% agree with it. From this it is possible to conclude that majority of the respondents disagree with the existence of reasonable periodical increase in salary, effective performance appraisal system, effective promotional opportunities, and existence of equal pay for equal work. Even though they are important motivational factors, they were missed in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town as the majority responded.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. CONCLUSION

The study was conducted on assessment of academic staff motivation in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town. Seventy (70) academic staffs were returned the questionnaire from Unity University, Rift Valley University College, and Royal University College by simple random sampling. In this regard the finding revealed that majority of the respondents were males (94.30%), categorized in age group of 26-30 years (60%), single in their marital status (51..40%), first degree holder (45.70%), academic status of lecturer (51.40%), served the organization for 1-5 years (48.60%).

- Most of the academic staff in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town was paid monthly salary of 1000-3000 birr (48.57%). And majority
 of the respondents replied the salary was very low and low as compared to other industries.
- From the total respondents 27 (38.57%) of them hold position in their institution but of the total position holder only 4 (14.81%) respondents satisfied with the position allowance paid to them, the rest23 (85.19%) were not satisfied with position allowance paid to them.
- Most of the academicians in private higher education institutions found in Adama Town were not motivated with their current job. For improvement of their motivation level they need monetary incentive, academic rank promotion, scholarship, and appreciation letters respectively as they replied.
- Most of the academicians witnessed that there was no recognition for outstanding employees in their institutions.
- Students' performance, scholarship for career development, work schedule, payment for over load, good working condition, promotion, academic freedom, recognition for the job well done, monetary incentive, amount of salary, job security, participatory decision making are the factors influencing motivational level of academic staff in private higher education institutions.
- The motivational level of academic staff to regularly attaining class, preparing teaching material, conducting research, taking continuous assessment, participating in community services, initiating ideas that benefits their institution, participating in seminar and conferences, voluntarily in taking position to serve the institution, participating in different committee, commitment to link the institution to industries, and promoting good will of the institution were low as majority of them replied.
- Finally more than 50% of the academicians disagree with existence of reasonable periodical increase in salary, effective performance appraisal, effective promotional opportunities, and equal pay for equal work in PHEIs found in Adama Town.

4.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the finding the following recommendations were drawn:

- It is impossible to insure the quality of education without motivating academic staff of private higher education institutions. The finding shows that the amount of salary paid to academicians in PHEIs was low as compared to other industries. Therefore, the management of private higher education institutions found in Adama Town should improve the amount of salary currently paid and also there should be reasonable increment in salary periodically.
- Academicians are not willing to take position in their institution and those who hold position were also not satisfied with the position allowance. Therefore,
 the position allowance paid to position holder should be significant so as it create competition among academic staff to hold position.
- Private higher education institutions should design effective performance appraisal system and based on the result there should be recognition for
 outstanding employees. This maintains the sense of competition among staffs and they motivated to exert their maximum effort for the incentives package
 available.
- The factors that motivate academic staff should get attention by the owners of private higher education institutions so as to ensure the quality of education.

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