



## PEER MENTORING FOR ENHANCING STUDENT SUPPORT IN UNIVERSITIES

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# Peer Support in Higher Education

- for lifelong learning?
- in UK and USA universities
- in Pakistan's universities
- for developing learning communities - learning to learn



# Peer Mentoring for Lifelong Learning

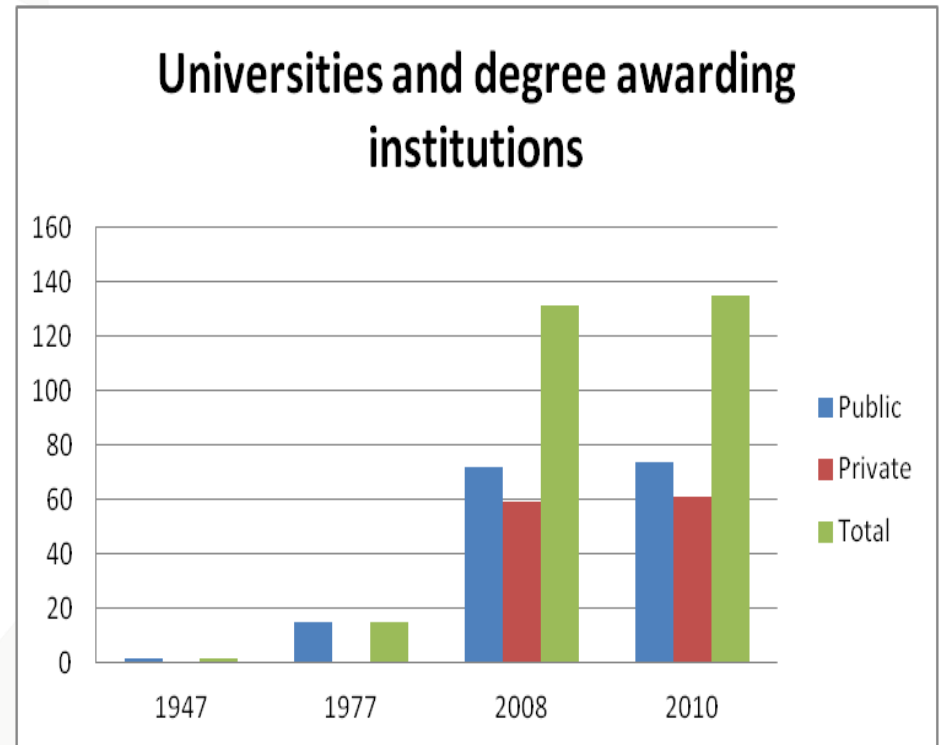
- What is peer support?
- Do you think you need it?
- What for?
- Who can/does provide peer support?
- Do any of you have any experience of peer-assisted learning?

# Student Peer Support in UK and USA universities

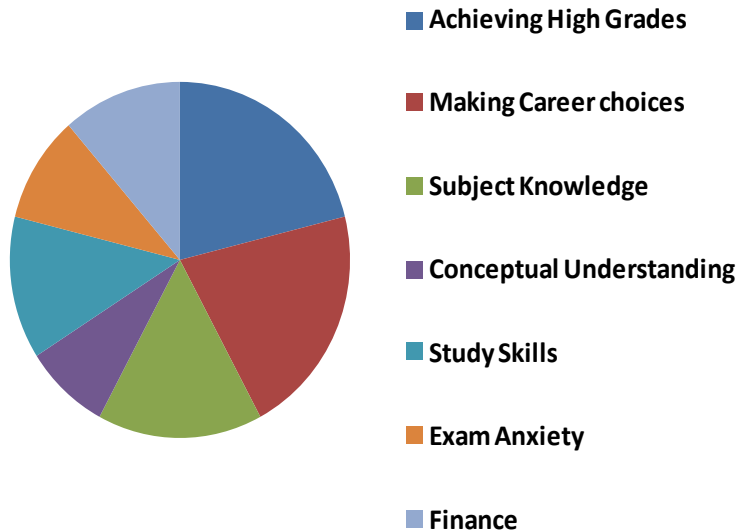
- Informal and Formal peer support
- What are the issues for UK students that peer support can help with?
- Peer support in Middlesex  
MUSU Buddy, SLA, Career Mentoring, GA
- Peer support in the USA?



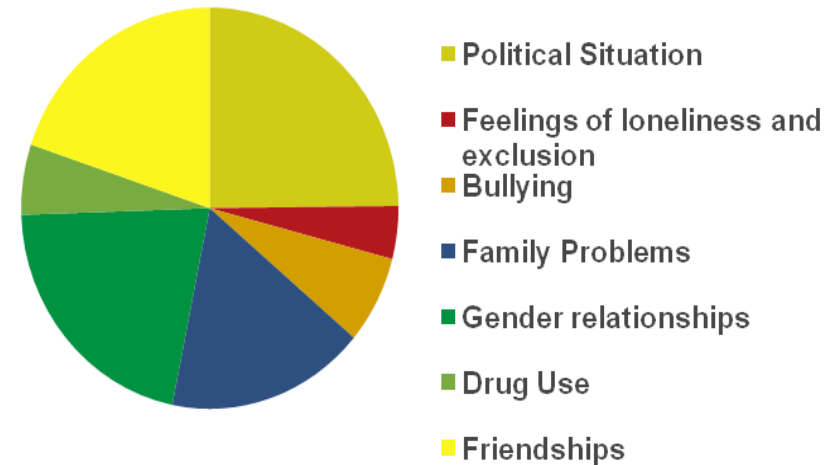
# Peer Mentoring in a new context: Universities in Pakistan



# Academic and Psychological issues faced by University students in Pakistan



1a) Academic issues



1b) Social/Psychological/other issues

# Implementation of the Mentoring process

1. Establishing permission and support from University
2. Preparation of resource materials (mentoring handbook, training manuals and logbooks etc)
3. Selection of the participants (mentoring coordinators, mentors and mentees)
4. Training the participants
5. Monitoring and overall evaluation of the mentoring process

# Emerging themes

1. The concept of senior students mentoring juniors in a structured form was **NEW** to the existing learning culture in universities in Pakistan.
2. The new/junior students felt more comfortable in discussing personal and academic issues with the senior peers than with the academic faculty.
3. Mentors developed key skills such as goal-setting, decision making, problem-solving and effective communication through training and practice.
4. Both mentors and mentees developed strong sense of peer support and mutual learning.
5. Alumni report greater awareness and participation in community learning in employment and social life.





# Mentee feedback.....

‘It is a good feeling to know I can talk to a friendly person on campus once a week, to discuss my problems or just to reflect on my studies, my assignments and classes – this has helped me to become more organised ’

‘I was very shy and hesitant to go to tutors with minor issues because this is the first time I have studied in a co-educational institution and I don’t live local’.



# Mentor feedback.....

- ‘I am more confident and can explain concepts more clearly as this has helped me clear my own concepts on a few topics I have studied last year ’
- ‘Thank you for helping me explore my leadership and communication skills, this will help me throughout my life. I wonder if I had a mentor during my first year I could have adjusted to university life much more quickly as I see that my mentee is settling in with a greater ease than I am. I am happy that I can be helpful to a new student in the university’.



# Learning to Learn- Students in Higher Education Reform

1. Peer support gives students a stronger sense of ownership of their learning
2. Mentoring changes the learning culture in University and improves students' engagement within learning communities
3. Graduates reflect improved understanding of the contribution of peer support in developing lifelong learning skills.
4. Peer-assisted learning develops social and community responsibility

# Reform from below

- *Currently, I'm pursuing my MS Economics from National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) Business School, Islamabad.*
- *..... and you'll be surprised to know that we (3 former mentors) have started Peer Mentoring at NUST University as well to assist fresh Undergraduate students!*
- Direct action by students achieved reform of learning process and improved their outcomes with impact on the university learning culture

# Student Peer Support for Reform in Universities in Serbia?

*1. What experience of peer support and/or mentoring do students have in Serbia?*

*2. Should student organisations mobilise students around their learning through direct intervention with mentoring or similar schemes?*

# contact

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