

Policy formulation on Higher Education: the panoramic view of South African colleges in the global trends

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to show that the global inequities are evident; in the belief that an educated populace leads to both economic success and social goods such as a strong civil society, countries able to compete in the global marketplace have invested heavily in the so-called massification of higher education while others are struggling to keep pace. There is much written about the crisis in higher education internationally in research and popular media, suggesting that in some way, higher education is standing on a precipice whether to disappear into the abyss of irrelevance or to take off soaring to new heights in technological revolution is not necessarily clear. The higher education system in South Africa is shaped and understood according to many different narratives, the story of higher education globally, and the fundamental changes it has undergone, its own particular history and legacy told from many perspectives, and the deliberate steering of the system through the application of policy drivers to reach particular goals. Intricately intertwined with the society in which it is embedded, the higher education sector in South Africa today is as much a creature of its past as it is a creature of sustained effort, through policy, legislation and institutional restructuring, to redirect and transform it. Although, there policy frameworks which are aimed to are to enhance the reputation, quality and relevance of higher education in South Africa, and to strengthen its higher education institutions. It is clear that the higher education system in South Africa is undoubtedly under pressure, with a number of institutions struggling to keep the higher education project up to speed with the global trends.

Keywords: Policy formulation, Higher Education, South African colleges, global trends.

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