

Session 3B: Exploring Quality Education

Saturday 9:00 AM PDT, 12:00 noon EDT, 4:00 PM Ghana Tropicana 2

Zoom Moderator: Eunice Akoto, Henderson State University

Defining, Measuring, and Sustaining Quality Education

S. G. Joag

St John's University

Education holds a unique place of importance in most societies for several reasons. Proper education of its citizens is critical to a society's existence, smooth functioning, and sustained prosperity. It stores accumulated knowledge of the past, enhances it with new innovations, and disseminates it to the next generations for preservation and use in sustaining economic and social advancement.

Rapid developments in sciences, information technology, and artificial intelligence, the very definition of what constitutes education and its three important dimensions: knowledge, skills, and experience, has become fluid and constantly evolving. "What is needed for a person to do a job well" keeps changing at an ever-increasing pace. And so do the techniques of preserving knowledge, and the need for, and tools of learning and applying it.

This paper aims at examining the important facets education, education quality, and the many challenges that must be dealt with to maintain quality education for sustained development. It will explore issues such as: how we define education; what it constitutes in terms of knowledge, skills, and experience; how quality of education can be measured, sustained, and enhanced; how education quality has a different meaning and purpose at individual level, and for the society as a whole. Further, it would discuss how education quality is impacted when it is provided as a social service vs when it is marketed as a service business for profit.

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Quality, Accessibility, and Sustainability of Higher Education Mission Statements: a Review of African Business Schools

E. O. Akoto, E. V. Akoto

Henderson State University, Arkansas, USA

Abstract

Mission statements (MS) are ubiquitous in higher education. However, there is little knowledge of the quality and relevance of African Business Schools (ABS) mission statements to the current dynamic environment, including relevance to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This study examined the accessibility of ABS mission statements and their quality based on the number of elements, types of elements, and the amount of verbiage across institutional configurations. The study also examined the relevance of MS to education-related SDGs. Content and descriptive-analytic approach is used to systematically examine ABS MS retrieved from institutional websites. The ABS mission statements were analyzed based on an adapted ten-element framework of mission statement. The study revealed that only 39.4% of the MS of the top 200 ABS reviewed were publicly accessible via institutional websites. The examined MS shows a moderate quality that varied partly by the institutional structural characteristics. The analysis also revealed that ABS mission statements are limited in the use of diversity and inclusion elements relevant to SDGs. Using a prescriptive approach, we provide recommendations for developing and enhancing mission statements in managing African higher education institutions toward achieving quality and sustainable education.

Key Words: Mission statement, MS elements, MS quality, MS sustainability, African business schools, SDGs

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DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE and SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: MEDIATING ROLE of EXTERNAL DEBT

E. Akwaa-Sekyi, A. Peprah-Yeboah

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

In spite of the numerous research on development assistance in various countries, the focus on the relationship with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) remains scanty. Even though official development assistance is supposed to give respite to augment the attainment of the SDGs, the role of external debt is yet to be explored in this relationship. This paper seeks to address this lacuna by examining the moderating role of external debt on the development assistance-sustainable development goals nexus. Using cross-country level data from low and upper middle income level countries, we determine whether there is co-integration between official development assistance, external debt and sustainable development goals. The study uses panel data for a period not less than two decades in a panel VECM to establish whether causality exists between the variables. We anticipate a long-run relation between the variables. In this study, we expect that external debt will derail the attainment of the SDGs because of the burden debts place on low-income countries. The paper has implications for improving the lifestyle, quality of life and welfare of people as enshrined in the SDGs. We proffer insight into the intended purposes of official development assistance as to whether countries use it to leverage on improving the welfare of the people or exacerbate their debt burden.