

The Profile of Postgraduate Foreign Students at the Universidad Autónoma de Asunción

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Abstract: This paper aims to investigate the reasons why students from foreign countries seek higher education in Paraguay, specifically at the Universidad Autónoma de Asunción, identify the profile of this student, understand their difficulties, expectations and experiences within a process of intellectual, academic exchange and cultural, understanding how the process and internationalization of higher education occurs.

Key words: student, foreign student, postgraduate migration

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1. Introduction

Migratory movements caused by various reasons have intensified in different parts of the world, in the educational field this phenomenon has also been occurring. According to UNESCO at the World Conference on Higher Education (2009), increasing access to higher education is a global trend.

According to this perspective, Paraguay is an alternative in the academic field for several foreign students, who are looking for an opportunity to pursue a postgraduate degree, qualify for the job market. There is a great demand for foreign students in Paraguay, many of them because they face several difficulties in entering postgraduate courses in their country of origin, shortage of vacancies, problems in reconciling workload with work. Why foreign students seek higher education in Paraguay?

2. Literature Review

With the phenomenon of globalization, the world has been going through several changes, among them we can mention the speed of information, the evolution in the production of knowledge and the change in the profile of citizens and professionals in general. Faced with this reality, the search for knowledge has crossed borders, turning the local citizen into a global citizen. In several countries, access to higher education is not satisfactory, this problem intensifies when it comes to access to postgraduate courses such as master's and doctorate, in the face of these and other difficulties, many students are unable to enter postgraduate programs offered in their locality, seek their professional qualification in other countries. According to UNESCO (2003), the transformation and substantial

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expansion of higher education, the improvement of its quality and relevance, and the way to solve the main difficulties that afflict it require the firm participation not only of governments and institutions of higher education, but also of all interested parties, including students and their families, teachers, the business world and industry, the public and private sectors of the economy, parliaments, the media, the community, professional associations and society, also demanding that higher education institutions assume greater responsibilities towards society and account for the use of public and private, national or international resources (...) (1998, p. 21).

Paraguay is one of the Latin American countries that receives many students from different neighboring countries and from other continents. Students from Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Angola, among other nationalities, see the country as an opportunity to develop their academic career. This work aims to investigate the reasons why students from foreign countries seek higher education in Paraguay, specifically at the Universidad Autónoma de Asunción, identify the profile of this student, understand their difficulties, expectations and experiences within a process of intellectual, academic exchange and cultural, understanding how the process and internationalization of higher education occurs. In accordance with the legislation established at the creation of MERCOSUR in 1991, Governments who are part of the regional pact agreed to address a series of collateral issues related to commercial exchange, in particular those related to the area of work, justice and education. In fact, the educational theme was put in relief as an aspect of importance for the member countries to take forward the process of community constitution. In the meetings prior to the Treaty of Asunción and in the foundational meeting itself, an agenda of common problems and objectives was defined that had to be addressed through the constitution of a specific project for this function: El Sector Educativo del MERCOSUR [...] At the same moment that the SEM tries to strengthen itself as an instrument for the construction of new spaces for the economic, political and cultural development to strengthen regional identity in a globalized world, an important debate around the internationalization of higher education comes to fruition carried out since the 1990's in the midst of international organizations — UNESCO/WTO (Fulquet, 2006, p. 5).

Thus, the interrelationship between member countries does not only contemplate economic issues, but international cultural and educational aspects, allowing the free movement of students between member countries, the exchange of professors, in order to strengthen intellectual academic integration, also enriching the cultural aspect. Provided a common educational space. Paraguay becomes a very attractive alternative, due to several factors such as proximity in relation to geographic distance. The good relationship with several countries both in Latin America and in other regions, the linguistic issue that in addition to Guaraní, Spanish (Castilian) is spoken, both official languages of the country. In terms of cost, Paraguay is also an attractive destination for many foreign students, as its official currency, the Guaraní, is very stable and, compared to the currencies of neighboring countries, is devalued against the euro and the US dollar, making the cost lower for who enter the country. With a large number of universities, mostly private, with a very receptive people, rich culture, little bureaucracy and low cost of living, Paraguay has shown itself to be a good alternative for professional qualification at a higher level and for intellectual and cultural center for those who seek the country's educational institutions.

3. Concept of Integrated Manufacturing Information System (IMIS)

It is expected that consumer needs will become more sophisticated and the trend towards stricter environmental, energy, and safety constraints conditions will continue in the future (Fujimoto & Park, 2012). To cope with these trends, it is necessary to conduct various countermeasures, such as IT system and product architecture strategy and

organizational capability. To analyze the complex processes for product development, I have suggested IMIS model, a model that integrates design information through all the activities related to management, manufacturing production processes, development processes, sales and marketing and services via i

4. Case Study

The research is justified by the need to investigate the real reasons for the search of foreign students from different countries for higher education in Paraguay, its positive and negative aspects. To analyze the results obtained in order to diagnose the student's profile and the reality of postgraduate higher education at the Universidad Autónoma de Asunción in the context of the process of internationalization of higher education in Latin America.

The motivation for choosing the theme came from the social relevance for foreign students, for the Universidad Autónoma de Asunción and also for a particular concern to investigate the different reasons foreign students seek Paraguay as the country for their academic, social and cultural growth.

It is hoped that this research will contribute to students, professors, course coordinators regarding the different aspects, opportunities and potential of students and the Universidad Autónoma de Asunción.

4.1 Type of Investigation

The research will be based on the descriptive study because according to Barros and Lehfeld (2007) the purpose of descriptive research is to observe, record and analyze the phenomena or technical systems, without, however, going into the merits of the contents, thus, in this type of research there is no there may be interference from the researcher, who will only have to discover how a system, method, process or operational reality is structured and works.

4.2 Methodology

The research will have a non-experimental, descriptive, cross-sectional and mixed approach. Descriptive research requires the researcher to provide a series of information about what he wants to research. In the mixed approach, the researcher bases the investigation on the assumption that the collection of different types of data guarantees a better understanding of the researched problem (Creswell, 2007, pp. 34-35).

4.3 Analysis Unit

This research will be carried out at the Universidad Autónoma de Asunción, in Asunción - Paraguay. The Universidad Autónoma de Asunción became a university in November 1991. It was previously the higher school of business administration (ESAE), founded in 1978.

4.4 Participants

Dean, 1 rector, 2 coordinators, 20 professors and 100 students.

Participating sample selection process: – non-probabilistic and intentional.

4.5 Data Collection Technique and Instruments

For the development of this research, interviews will be carried out with teachers, coordinators and management team, application of semi-structured questionnaires to students, according to Gonzáles, Fernandes y Camargo (2014, p. 28) "Observation is a procedure followed when data are obtained in natural contexts. with minimal internal control".

4.6 Validity and Reliability

The questionnaire will be validated by the judgment of 5 doctors.

4.7 Data Collection Analysis

All data will be surveyed for interpretation, qualification and description.

5. Conclusion

Paraguay is a popular destination for many students from different parts of the world, such as those from African countries such as Angola, and specifically from neighboring countries such as Colombia, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. The agreement signed by MERCOSUR is a facilitating point for this population's transit process, in addition to the aspects related to less geographic distance. This internationalization of higher education also reflects the great inequality in access to higher education in several Latin American countries.

conclusion

The phenomenon of student migration puts us on alert so that public policies and society seek mechanisms, ways to minimize the difficulties in accessing higher education, especially among the poorest students. Paraguay presents itself as a low-cost alternative, with good universities, offering postgraduate education for several professionals....

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