

Estimate of the Job Market Needs for the Outcomes of the Colleges of Education at the Saudi Universities

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Keywords

Job market estimate, Colleges outcomes, Higher Education, Population projection analyzing, graduates growth

Extended Abstract

The study aimed at estimating the job market needs for the outcomes of the colleges of education at the Saudi universities through examining the situation of Saudi higher education, presenting the increase in the graduates of secondary education being one of the most important inputs of higher education, setting the admission rates and the demand and supply gap in higher education, and analyzing population projections and future indices of the job market. The study also focused on the contribution of the higher education institutions to admitting secondary education graduates and offering outcomes that match with the needs of the job market. Besides, the study touched on the lack of demand on the specialties of the colleges of education and the expected supply of their graduates. Such a study would help legislators and decision makers of Saudi higher education to determine the effectiveness of expanding higher education institutions in general and the colleges of education in particular.

In order to realize the objectives of the study, the researcher examined the literature review relevant to the topic of the study and used the analytical descriptive method for investigating relevant documents. Besides, he used a number of statistical methods, such as time sequences, anticipation rates with an eye to estimating the job market need for teachers. The study came up with a number of findings, most important of which are:

1. The problem of admitting secondary education graduates to college is still a challenge for Saudi higher education, despite the recent increase in the number of universities. For example, in every 100.000 Saudi residents, there are 2000 students, while the ratio in developed countries is 4000/100.000 (four thousand students in 100,000 residents).
2. The overall percentage of students at Saudi universities is 38% of the age group 19-24 which means 62% of the students of the same age group are still outside the higher education institutions.
3. The growth rate of the secondary education graduates from 1995 to 2010 was 270%.
4. It is expected that the growth rate of the students reaches 30% by 2015.
5. The teacher/student ratio was 1/22 (one teacher for 22 students), and in some specialties the ratio was 1/40.
6. The estimates of graduates represent only 30% of the demand and supply gap in the workforce in education.
7. The number of non-admitted students to universities was 98000 students in 2010.
8. The number of higher education students rose from 4 million to 6.4 million in the period between 1995 and 2010.
9. The number of teachers is due to increase by an annual percentage of 3.5% in the light of the anticipated estimates of their need.

10. The anticipated gap in education jobs goes beyond 97000 job opportunities by 2040.

The study also came up with a number of conclusions and recommendations, most important of which are:

- There will be a promising future for teacher preparation due to the increasing number of people and the availability of learning opportunities to the society along with the effort to make education compulsory.
 - There is an increase in the number of self-funded Saudi students outside Saudi Arabia who specialize in fields not offered by the colleges of education in the country.
 - It is necessary to expand higher education according to the recommendations of the Ninth Development Plan of 2010-2014.
 - The age factor of the population and the rates of graduates along with the demand and supply estimates of the workforce all indicate an increase in the rate of the job market inputs for the next 15 years which is expected to be 3%. This, in turn, will contribute to an increase in national supplies of workforce which is a challenge that calls upon preparing human resources very well.
 - Riyadh has the biggest population in Saudi Arabia. This means there is an increasing need for setting up new schools which will require new teachers.
 - One of the strategic objectives of the Tenth Plan of the Ministry of Education 2006-2015 is to improve the teacher/student ratio so that it becomes 1/20 at the various stages of education at once the plan is executed. .
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