Quality Challenge in a Changing Landscape of Higher Education: Place and Impact of Academic Rankings

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Abstract

The present day developments are of such dimensions that we can talk about new landscape of higher education as it plays increasingly central role for economic health and social progress. In this context there is a keen interest from various stake-holders to get a better evidence of functioning and performance of higher education at the system, institutional and program level, resulting in a setting up additional quality challenge. Consequently, politicians, employers and not to mention potential students and their families are in need of quantified evidence about quality and performance without going too much into workings of a particular institution or for not less valid argument of not having sufficient capacity to undertake a fully-fledged analysis. In recent years, such mechanisms/instruments as peer review, accreditation, benchmarking and audit have been supplemented with “rankings.” The emergence, popularity and relevance of “academic rankings” are a new phenomenon and needs to be analyzed in above mentioned context of the changing landscape of higher education.

Keyword: Systemic Changes in Higher Education; Quality Assurance; University Ranking

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