Quality, Equality and Equity in Education: Exploring balance of diversity, right and participation

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ABSTRACT

The interconnectedness of quality, equality and equity in education is a chain in accessibility of education services. The main challenges encountered in education is efforts to seek for balance to improve quality of education along with that of equality and equity. The aim of this study was to measure to what extent higher education institutions have provided educational services which are in alignment with indicators of quality, equality and equity. This survey study involved higher education students as respondents. The survey instrument was constructed based on the indicators of quality, equality and equity developed by Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and such other indicators of quality and equality by Kyriakides, Creemers and Charalambous (2018). The questionnaire, which was distributed online, was completed by 210 respondents. The results show that quality, equality and equity were well represented in educational services at higher education institution. Diversity, right and participation were also well accommodated in the provided educational services; creating inclusive and supportive environment for all students. However, some areas of services were in need of attention, such as distribution of human resources, emotional and social support to make sure that every student can fully and fairly take the benefits of education. The survey results showed that the average score of students' completion of the survey was from 3,25 to 3,60 of the scale of 1-4. This result indicates that students, in general, provide agreement or strongly agreement to the point that quality of education at higher education institution was good, that there was equality in opportunity and treatment, and that equity was evident in its educational services. The standard deviation ranged from 0,54 to 0,79 which means that the respondents have relatively similar judgments. The correlation analysis of the three variables of quality, equality and equity resulted in the correlation level of 0,81 to 0,84. This correlation indicates that the three variables have a positive correlation to each other; showing that the improvement of one variable tends to lead to the improvement of the other two variables.