

SELF-FINANCING HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR IN HONG KONG: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

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CHALLENGE 1: DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

A Blessing in Disguise

Self-financing Tertiary Education (SFTE) expanding too fast: from 01/02 FT 9000

to 12/13 85000 (including 25000 degree)

2014: 65000 DSE, 43500 with 22222, leaving 17000 for SFTE sector for 25000 places

2022: 42000 DSE, 28000 with 22222, leaving 2000 for SFTE sector!!!!

Consolidation, Adaptation, Survival for the fittest

CHALLENGE 2: THE ICT ERA

The ICT Era: Digitization, Globalization, Capital Accumulation – continuous change; scope and scale; diversity and exposure; digital divide and M society

Upward mobility – not *level* of education, not working *hard*; but *type* of education and working *smart*; generic skills (A B C) by nurturing and OLE (experience, exposure, excitement)

How can the SFTE sector produce ‘useful’, happy and not ‘frustrated’ graduates????

RESPONSES

Using economics for less developed countries

1. Comparative Advantage
2. ODA (official development assistance)
PDA (private development assistance)

RESPONSE 1: POSITIONING

1. Comparative advantage of SFTE sector is TEACHING. SFTE unit cost, 25 to 30% of UGC' actually sufficient to deliver quality teaching with little research and knowledge exchange. Quality Assurance. But what quality: curriculum, teaching, learning, outcome (what outcome)?? SFTE sector can teach better!!
2. For FT, SFTE should focus on sub-degrees and locally accredited degrees, not top-ups, not overseas degrees

RESPONSE 2: ODA/PDA

1. The role of Government

Ensuring a level playing field; fair distribution of government-funded sub-degree places

Provision to SFTE sector of infrastructure, competitive grants, loans, scholarships;

2. Private donations

Prove to the public we operate on an Education and not Business model, a better provider of elementary undergraduate education

THANK YOU

Happy 20th Anniversary