RESEARCH IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

An Indicative List of Themes

February, 2010
INTRODUCTION

Tertiary education in Mauritius is in a phase of rapid expansion and diversification. In this era of globalisation, there is an increasing need to gauge issues, problems and challenges confronting the sector and to build on the existing knowledge. It is also essential that higher educational institutions are encouraged to adopt international best practices and to create the right environment for the smooth growth, development and enhanced performance of the higher education sector.

A number of topical issues in education relating to such areas as access, relevance, equity, financing and costs, quality, governance, effectiveness and efficiency, teaching and learning and research, amongst others, are, on the one hand, in need of in-depth investigation. There are a number of higher education students, academics and researchers, on the other hand, who are interested to undertake research in education but are having difficulties to identify specific areas to kick-start their work. This publication, therefore, intends to act as a guide to potential researchers. They will find inside a list of research titles from which to select. The themes indicated are of direct relevance to the major issues in the higher education sector. Many of the themes have been chosen in view of their practical orientation and their relevance for developing policies.

It is hoped that this publication will steer educational research in higher education in the desired direction and benefit all stakeholders—policy-makers, administrators, planners and students, employers, etc—concerned with the increasingly complex problems facing the sector.

I would like to thank all my staff at the Commission who have assisted me in the preparation of this document.

Finally, with a view to stimulate research in tertiary education, the TEC, aware that the list is far from exhaustive, would be glad to develop further the research areas identified and to provide any technical support. Financial assistance (subject to condition) may also be extended under the Commission’s various research and related support schemes.

Dr P. Mohadeb
Executive Director
Tertiary Education Commission
February, 2010
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17. How can we ensure that our Tertiary Education System has international standing and is internationally oriented?
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20. International cooperation and development: The role of universities

21. Is there an optimum size for a university?

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23. Issues in tertiary education

24. Measuring the international standing of Tertiary Education Institutions with an application to Mauritius

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27. Perspectives for the future system of tertiary education

28. Postgraduate education in Mauritius

29. Private tertiary education: What price diversity?

30. Providing for a system of Continuing Professional Education

31. Rationalisation of the Tertiary Education Sector in Mauritius: The case for and against

32. Revisiting the relationship between the State and the Tertiary Education Institutions in Mauritius

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22. Towards mass tertiary education: Issues and dilemmas
23. What type of pathways to tertiary education?
24. Women participation in tertiary education in Mauritius
25. Can regional aggregation of demand effectively lower costs and improve access for Mauritian universities?
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3. Assessing the cost and benefit of tertiary education in Mauritius
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6. Cost containment for higher education: Strategies for public policy and institutional administration
7. Cost efficiency in public higher education
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9. Designs of budgeting processes for publicly-funded Tertiary Education Institutions
10. Effective fund raising in higher education
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12. Exploring cost sharing and cost recovery schemes in tertiary education: Some international experiences
13. Financing Tertiary Education: Alternatives for the State
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15. How can the Tertiary Education Institutions mobilise external Resources for their financial survival?
16. How can formula funding be used in steering the publicly-funded Tertiary Education Institutions in the desired direction?
17. How can we finance the growing tertiary education budget?
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20. Private financing of tertiary education in Mauritius: what prospects?
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31. Student loans: Lessons from international experience
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34. The financial cost to the country of Mauritian students going overseas for higher studies
35. The future funding of tertiary education
36. The internationalisation of higher education: Exporting educational services to the Region
37. The introduction of tuition fees at the UOM: the case for and against
38. The private cost of tertiary education
39. The problems of financing tertiary education in Mauritius
40. The rate of return to investing in a degree: A case study
41. University finance: Problems and procedures
42. Using the One-line budget to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Tertiary Education Institutions in Mauritius
43. Who benefits from tertiary education and who should pay?
44. Who pays for undergraduate study?
45. Why and how do universities work for sustainability in higher education?
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1. Accommodating culture and cultural diversity in on-line teaching

2. Administrative framework for distance education

3. Approaches and processes for developing learning materials for distance education

4. Can or should e-learning improve the cost effectiveness of higher education?

5. Cost effectiveness of technologies in distance education

6. Critical success factors in on-line education

7. Distance education: A social catalyst for Third World countries

8. Distance education in Mauritius: stock-taking, concerns and prospects

9. Distance education and second chance education: An analysis of the social and educational background of distance education students

10. Distance education and the complexity of assessing the internet

11. Distance education for the updating of Knowledge at postgraduate level

12. Distance education models in developing countries

13. Distance education: Promise, performance and potentials

14. Distance education: Role of new technologies in the 21st Century

15. Distance education: The foundation of effective practice

16. E-Education: whose benefits, whose costs?

17. Instructional design for distance education

18. Is distance learning really cost-effective? A case study of Mauritius

19. Issues in management of distance education

20. Learning environment and learning strategies in distance education
21. On-line course development: What does it cost?
22. Pedagogy considerations for e-learning
23. Planning and implementing open and distance learning systems
24. Quality on the line: Benchmarks for success in Internet-based education
25. Quality perspectives in distance education
26. Roles and competencies of academic counsellors in distance education
27. Shaping e-learning policy
28. Should distance education emphasise technology or instruction?
29. Teaching and learning in distance education: Analysis and interpretations from an international perspective
30. The centrality of learners support in open and distance learning
31. The impact of distance education on access and cost of tertiary education
32. The importance of policies in e-learning instruction
33. The on-line learner: characteristics and pedagogical implications
34. The validation of a strategic planning process model for the implementation of distance education in higher education
35. Towards an effective quality assurance model of web-based learning
36. Towards the establishment of an Open University in Mauritius
38. The use of ICT in support of tertiary education
39. The Virtual University and the culture of learning
40. Is there a correlation between Internet access and retention of academic staff in Mauritian research institutions? How do University lecturers use these networks?
41. How does access to the Internet contribute to research capacity in Mauritian universities?

42. What are the most appropriate technologies for tertiary education infrastructure?
5. Efficiency/Relevance/Quality in Tertiary Education

1. Assessing classroom assessment practices
2. Assessing the effectiveness of the Tertiary Education Institutions in Mauritius
3. Assessment in tertiary education: Principles, policy and practice
4. Computer–assisted learning in tertiary education
5. Developing critical thinking in the higher education learning environment
6. Determinants and conditions of efficiency in Tertiary Education Institutions
7. Do teachers’ knowledge and behaviour reflect their qualifications and training
8. Employers’ perception of local graduate competencies
9. Efficiency in tertiary Education: Concepts and problems
10. Evaluation criteria and the effectiveness of instructional technology in tertiary education
11. Increasing the public accountability of tertiary education
12. Is the existing Tertiary Education System able to deliver what the Mauritian society and economy need?
13. Making more effective use of resources: An imperative for tertiary education
14. Measurement of educational efficiency in the Tertiary Education Institutions
15. Measuring quality in internet-based higher education: Benchmarks for success
16. Quality assurance in higher education: Recent progress and challenges ahead
17. Quality improvement, quality assurance and benchmarking: Comparing frameworks for managing quality processes in open and distance learning
18. Raising productivity in higher education
19. Rationale for relevance in tertiary education
20. Scientific and research work of Academics and students: An important factor of qualitative betterment of education

21. Teaching evaluation: A critical measure for improving the quality of tertiary education

22. Teaching and learning evaluation: A comparative study of public and private Tertiary Education Institutions

23. Tertiary education in post-independent Mauritius: A Critical evaluation in terms of selected criteria of effectiveness

24. The Efficiency/Equity dilemma and tertiary education finance

25. The path to excellence: Quality assurance in tertiary education


27. The relevance and quality of tertiary education in Mauritius: Some policy suggestions

28. The usefulness of student evaluations in improving teaching in tertiary education

29. Using the One-Line Budget to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Tertiary Education Institutions in Mauritius

30. How to strike a balance between quality assurance and quality control in the perceptions of individual lecturers.
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4. Academic recruitment in the publicly-funded Tertiary Education Institutions
5. Addressing the issue of good governance in publicly-funded Tertiary Education Institutions
6. Assessing what academics do: An introduction to academic performance appraisal in higher education
7. Autonomy and public accountability in tertiary education
8. Confronting sexual harassment on campus: What higher education institutions can do?
9. Defining the role of academics in accountability
10. Ensuring the participation of external actors in the governance of TEIs
11. Establishing a culture of assessment in the publicly-funded Tertiary Education Institutions
12. Exploring concrete issues of higher education governance
13. Governance and the management of the Mauritian higher education
14. Promotion criteria and gender bias in academia
15. The development of performance evaluation for the publicly-funded Tertiary Education Institutions in Mauritius
16. The mission of higher education in the changed social context and its implications for governance
17. The role of good governance in the quest for quality higher education

18. Student participation in the governance of the Tertiary Education Institutions

19. What are the most effective policy interventions to support research and education networking in Mauritius?
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1. A strategic planning process model for tertiary education
2. Assessing the extent of space utilisation in the Tertiary Education Institutions
3. Current higher education strategies and responsiveness to emerging skills shortages and surpluses
4. Determinants and options in the development of tertiary education in Mauritius
5. Enhancing the capability of tertiary education providers to indulge in strategic planning
6. Estimating the throughput to the Tertiary Education System in the medium and long term
7. Management Information Systems: key to planning Tertiary Education
8. Methodological approaches to forecasting the development of tertiary education
9. Organizational planning in Tertiary Education Institutions
10. Performance Indicators as a basis for evaluating the Tertiary Education Sector
11. Performance Indicators in tertiary education: A comparative study
12. Planning and institutional autonomy
13. Planning buildings and facilities in tertiary education
14. Planning education for reducing inequalities
15. Problems in the planning of tertiary education
16. Problems of perspective planning of tertiary education
17. Space planning for tertiary education
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30. What are the most appropriate strategies for the effective development and expansion of research and education networking in Mauritius?
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10. Professional careers of the tertiary education graduates in Mauritius
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4. Enhancing academic engagement in knowledge transfer activity in Mauritius
5. Entrepreneurship and tertiary education
6. Interface: Universities, societies and governments
7. Moral values and higher education: A notion at risk
8. Public university and private university
9. Science and tertiary education in Mauritius
10. Tertiary education and government: An uneasy alliance
11. Tertiary education in a technological society
12. Tertiary education in Mauritius as seen by parents, students, teachers and employers
13. The need for policy and structural innovation in the system of tertiary education
14. The relationship between institutions of tertiary education and Industry in Mauritius
15. The role of the universities in the social education of the country
16. The tertiary education institutions and adult education
17. The university curriculum and the needs of society
18. The university’s response to societal demands
19. To what extent are The tertiary education institutions dedicated to addressing local economic and community needs in their teaching and research
20. Universities as social critics
21. University and society

22. University independence: The main questions

23. The returns from tertiary education: An individual and societal perspective