

Academic Advising as a Pre-Step for the Introduction of the Human Capital Approach to Solve the Issue of Quality in the Algerian University

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Abstract

This paper looks at higher education problems in Algeria and the necessity of introducing 'academic advising' as a pre-step of the human-capital approach to solve the issue of quality. In the aftermaths of 'the bloody decade', Algeria lost the pillars of its tertiary education. To compensate, the government relied on mass access to universities which has in its turn resulted in low quality. This work seeks to check the usability of the human capital approach in solving the quality problem in Algerian universities. Because education could offer both monetary and non-monetary profits, it is considered lucrative to invest in developing human skills and competences which constitute the capital that guarantees earning a living. This research, thus, proposes 'academic advising' as a first step on the short term. The current paper presents a descriptive analysis of 50 questionnaires answered by middle and high school teachers and headmasters, university students and professors and guidance counselors. The results of this qualitative study show how 'academic advising' when extended up to the university level can harness the learner's capital.

Keywords: Academic advising, Algerian higher education, quality, the human capital approach

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