

A Comparative Study of Opportunities and Challenges Among International Students in Australia and Malaysia

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to carefully investigate the opportunities and challenges for the international students in Australia and Malaysia. This is a literature based study; mainly a concept paper. While comparing the opportunities and challenges among international students between Australia and Malaysia we are able to understand that both countries are facing similar issues while providing education services to the international students. In comparison to other countries, the opportunities provided by the Australian government to the international students are productive and it helps the students to get better jobs in reputed companies.

Keywords: *Opportunities and Challenges, Australian education, Malaysian education.*

1. Introduction

We know the fact that; people are searching for different options for learning new skills and abilities. As per the report of Business Insider (2012), students are interested to complete their post graduation in foreign countries. Students considered it as an opportunity to understanding different cultures and new methods for managing their personal as well as professional issues. Most of the countries are giving more importance to education facilities and systems in which they are providing different options for students for managing the challenges relate with their life. Due to the impact of globalization and other recent trends, the multi-national companies required talented and competent students. As per the report of Forbes (2013) most of the educational institutions are focus on the work-oriented learning culture, in which the students will get an opportunity to learn theories and its practical application. In this paper, we are comparing the opportunities and challenges among the international students in the countries of Australia and Malaysia. According to the words of Jake (2012), developed countries are offering wide variety skilled courses to the students for sharpening their skills and abilities. The main objective of every educational course is to develop KSA, which means knowledge, skill and abilities. Now we can analyze the various aspects related with topic in an detailed way.

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2. Literature Review

We know the fact the while doing a course or project the students will consider different internal and external factors. According to the words of Glen (2012), the study methods and tools used by the countries will be different and it will affect the behavior of the students. Most of the parents are trying to provide best education to their children, and they are selecting the best institutes for the same. As per the report of educationcounts.govt (2012), the international students in Malaysia and Australia are facing various challenges and issues, most of the students are interested to complete job-oriented course from these two countries. According to the words of Thomas (2013) international students has to face various problems related with their studies and stay in the foreign countries. The culture and beliefs of each student will be different and it directly influences the entire class and other students. Most of the educational institutions in Malaysia and Australia are using different diversity management tools and methods for managing the cultural issues in a productive way (Karakis 2010, p.218). Now we can analyze the both countries in an effective way.

3. Objectives of the Study

This study has been conducted with a view to: i. Identify the opportunities and challenges for the international students in Australia, ii. Explain the opportunities and challenges for the international students in Malaysia.

4. Findings of the Study

4.1 Opportunities and challenges for the international students in Australia

According to the words of L.T Tran (2006) international students in Australia has to face different challenges in order for completing their course in an effective way. While analyzing the result of modified Online Learning Environment Survey, we can able to understand that Australian government introduce different polices and activities for encouraging international students to join for different course and course related jobs (Rahman 2010, p.113). Government authorities also provided effective educational scholarship to the international students for completing their course by incurring minimum cost.

4.1.1 Opportunities enjoyed by the international students in Australia

As per the report of unisa.edu.au (2014), international students in Australia are satisfied with the services offered by the government and educational institutions. When a student registered with the university in Australia, his details directly recorded in the government systems and it helps the students to get job opportunities and other scholarships in an effective way (Rice 2007, p.381). Most of the educational institutions are considering international students in a special way, and they are offering productive services for sharpening their skills and abilities. While analyzing the report of university of South Australia (2012) international students are getting better learning experience in the country and most of the universities are following the approach of “experience learning”. For the each student the educational institutions are providing specific services for developing their skills, in order for achieving their personal as well as professional goals. The universities are also providing competent based training

programs to the international students for getting the job in a productive way. Most of the international students in the country are interested to start a business in the home country or in Australia. If the students are interested to start the business in the country the government is providing financial assistance and guidance. We know the compared to the international markets the Australian markets showing a positive trend for the start up business groups and ventures. Therefore, the international students can use the opportunity provided by the government and they can able to earn better income. As per the report of Distance Education Learning Environments Survey (2013), the rate of international students enrolled for distance education learning is increased. While analyzing the result we can able to understand that, international students are getting the opportunity to earn while learning the interested subjects or courses. We know the fact that; most of universities in Australia are following strict and effective quality practices for managing the courses and students in a productive way. With the support of these actions and policies, the international students can improve their learning process in a productive way.

We know the fact due to personal or other related reasons, students has to return to their home country, without completing the course, but while analyzing the educational policy followed by the Australian government we can able to understand that students can complete the course through online. The colleges are also providing the service of on-line discussion forums in which the students can share the information and learn from anywhere in the world (Linc 2010, p.28). While analyzing the course offered by the Australian universities we can able to understand that, they are providing the opportunity to the students for getting a better job in a reputed company. As per the report of Australian government (2013), private companies are hiring international students from colleges, with high paid salary and other related offers. While analyzing all these aspects we can able to understand that international students in Australia are getting better education and other related services.

4.1.2 Challenges for the International students in Australia

As per the report of According to Australian Education International (2014) 600,000 foreign students are in the country and they are facing various problems related with their course and other related aspects

4.1.2.1 Technical Issues

Most of the universities are providing on-line classes and services, but in some cases, most of the international students are facing technical issues related with on-line classes and scheduling. Most of the students are paying very high amount of fees to the universities in which they are not getting the quality education services from the colleges and universities. We know the fact that, in order for ensuring the quality in teaching the instructors have to different methods and strategies. It is not possible to complete the course by using one course-delivery format; the researcher has to use different methods and strategies for ensuring the best performance from the students in a productive way. While analyzing the operations of different colleges we can able to understand they are focusing on one method for teaching and it will directly affect the quality of the students.

4.1.2.2 Cultural Issues

Every country have their own culture and beliefs, it is the duty of the educational institutions to create productive strategies to manage the cultural issues in an effective way. As per the report of Australian department of justice (2013), culturally motivated crimes among students are showing an increasing trend and it will directly influence the course of international students. The main objective of international students is to get the quality education from a reputed university that respects the law and value system. There exist a cultural difference between the students and it will affect the quality of the teaching the methods and styles. It is easy to manage the students but if they are making any cultural advantage over other students, it will affect the entire education system of the institution.

4.1.2.3 Financial Issues

As per the report of Terry (2012) the international students are also facing problems related to the cost incurred for the completing the course and stay. In order for completing a foundation course the international students has to high amount. While analyzing other countries we can able to understand that the cost for completing a course is low and it not possible for the international students to manage the cost in Australia. Most of the universities are providing accommodation facilities to the international students and they are charging an amount for the services offered by them. For an international student, it is not easy manage the cost for study and cost for the accommodation.

4.1.2.4 Poor on-line forum issues and problems

We know the fact in order for completing the course in a productive way; we have to focus on the on-line services provided by the institution or colleges. As per the report of On-Line Learning Environment Survey (2012) in order for sharing the information and other related facts the universities has to provide speedy on-line services.

4.3 Opportunities and challenges for the international students in Malaysia

According to the words of Yele (2012), Malaysia can be called as the one of the interested place for the students for completing their postgraduate and degree programs in an effective way. Every year the Malaysian government providing a financial aid to the universities and colleges for ensuring the quality in the services provided them. International students get an opportunity to manage their studies in an effective way, the educational institutions in the country updating the syllabus every time and it helps the students to understand the recent trends and polices. The educational institutions also providing customized services to the students for getting good marks. Now we can analyze the opportunities and challenges for the international students in Malaysia in a detailed fashion.

4.3.1 Opportunities for the International students in Malaysia

As per the report of Ministry of Higher Education (2009), Malaysia is ranked in the 11 position with related with productive educational services and programs. Last year more than 1000 students registered for the post graduation course, which means the country is providing better opportunities to the international students. While analyzing the different courses and

programs in Malaysia we can able to understand that, students get an opportunity to do research in the specialized tools and if they are completing the research in time, the government is ready to provide the financial assistance to the students. International students also get an opportunity to work plus job in which they can able to manage the course fees in an effective way. In most of the colleges if the students are performing better, they are providing different scholarships and fellowships for motivating the students in an effective way. International students also get an opportunity to visit different countries as a part of student's exchange program and study tour (Laurens 2012, p.16). As per the report of University Putra Malaysia (2011), International students are using the educational resources in Malaysia for completing their PHD and projects in an effective way. The university also provides the 100% campus placement support for the international students for attaining their personal as well as professional goals and objectives. According to the words of Helen (2012), international students also get an opportunity to learn different languages and cultures and it helps them to do the business in Malaysia. Most of the international students are getting government allowances and subsidies for completing their course in an effective way.

4.3.2 Challenges for the international students in Malaysia

According to the words of Lu (2010) the rate of students enrolled for PG program are showing an increasing trend, in which the government has to introduce productive strategies for managing the various issues faced by the international students in the country.

4.3.2.1 Cultural Issues

Most of the international students in the country are facing problems with the cultural issues, and it will directly affect the studies. We know the fact the people in Malaysian giving more importance to their culture and beliefs. They follow different cultural practices and activities in order strengthening their beliefs and values. Cultural issues in the country are directly influencing the behavior of the international students and it will affect their performance.

4.3.2.2 Communication Issues

According to the words of Yusliza & Chelliah (2010) the international students are facing problem related with language used in Malaysia .The social culture background in the country is directly affecting the performance of the international students. As per the report of education department of Malaysia (2011) most of the students are facing communication issues in the first year of course. We know the fact in order for understanding the behavior of other people we have to use productive communication strategies. Most of students reported that, classes are in English, in which they can easily understand the subject in an productive way, but when they are interacting with other students and staffs in the college they are facing problems (Wells 2008, p.268). Most of the people in Malaysia are giving more importance to the local language and customs, so international students are facing problems when they are communicating with the local people in the country. As per the report of International Conference on Learner Diversity (2010) in order for completing the research woks and projects the international students required the support of staffs in the college and local

people. Most of the research projects are mainly related with the culture and behavioral patterns of the people in the country. So the students have to collect data from the people for completing the research in an accurate way. According to the words of Bektas (2008) the Malaysian citizens are not giving importance to the English language and it will directly affect the performance of the international students

4.3.2.3 Lack of entertaining activities

The colleges are giving more importance to the academic projects and research works, students are not getting enough time for the entertainment activities. Universities are not taking any initiatives to conduct the events and programs, in order for completing the course in an effective way. As per the report of American psychological association (2013) entertainment activities in colleges and schools will help the students to reduce the stress level in an effective way.

5. Conclusion

While comparing the opportunities and challenges among international students between Australia and Malaysia we are able to understand that both countries are facing similar issues while providing education services to the international students. In the case of Australasia rate of international students enrolled for different courses are higher than Malaysia and they are providing better opportunities to the international students for managing the problems in an effective way. Compared to Australian education system the international students are facing problems related with culture beliefs of the people in Malaysia. As per the report of Business Insider (2012) opportunities provided by the Australian government to the international students are productive and it helps the students to get better jobs in reputed companies. So while analyzing all these aspects we confess and conceive that international students are getting better opportunities in Australia.

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