KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

THEME: RE-ENGINEERING EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

18TH – 20TH MAY 2015

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT, POLICY AND CURRICULUM STUDIES

VENUE: KENYATTA UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE CENTER

PROGRAM AND BOOK OF ABSTRACTS
International Conference on
'Re-Engineering Education for Sustainable Development'
18th - 20th May 2015
Kenyatta University Conference Centre (KUCC)
Nairobi, KENYA
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THEME: ‘Re-Engineering Education for Sustainable Development

Sub-themes:
- Enhancing quality in education
- Educational reforms and governance
- Research, innovation and knowledge transfer in education
- Application of ICT in education
- Resource mobilization and utilization in education
Massification in Education and its Impact on Quality of Education in Kenya’s Public Universities

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Abstract

In Kenya, the government recognizes the importance of quality university education and has established the Commission for University Education (CUE) charged with the responsibility of ensuring that quality education is offered in the universities. However, there is a growing concern over the quality of education offered in Kenyan public universities in the face of recent mass admissions into these universities. Findings from research seem to be pointing to a decline in the quality of education offered in the public universities and it is believed that the concern for quality will continue to rise even as the demand for university education also rises. This demand is based on the perceived benefits accruing from higher education and the desire by governments to increase access to university education to learners of all categories. This increased demand has led to universities opening up ill equipped branches in hitherto unheard of places as well as mounting courses some of which they are least equipped to teach thus raising questions about the quality. It is important to note that quality is an overriding criterion in gauging excellence in university education. Hence universities desiring to be considered world-class must do so within the context of quality. This paper investigate how mass enrolment into public universities is negatively impacting on the quality of education offered in these institutions of higher learning.

Key Words: Massification of education, education quality, university education, quality assurance, education demand