

The Impact of Globalization on Higher Education

Siyu Wang

The University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh EH8 9YL United Kingdom

Abstract: Driven by technological development and social progress, Globalization will become an inevitable trend. Nowadays, globalization has become a common theme for all countries to promote development. It is certain that the development of globalization has brought many benefits to various industries. However, it may also has many problems that cannot be ignored. The impact of Globalization on Higher Education has aroused wide concerns, not only on the individual but also on the society. Altbach (2004) finds that some people believe that globalization will create a level playing field in the new era of knowledge dependence, while others claim that globalization means inequality worldwide and the McDonaldisation of universities. It can be seen that higher education is very important to the country and the individual. Therefore, We must be clear about the positive and negative effects of globalization on higher education in order to help higher education develop better. In this essay, I will analyze that globalization has more negative effects than favorable effects on higher education.

Keywords: Globalization; Higher education; Inequality; Economic benefit

Globalisation has brought several benefits on Higher Education. It enables countries around the world to share academic knowledge and educational resources with each other. Many universities adopt methods such as overseas branch campuses, cross-border teaching, joint degrees and “virtual universities” so that higher education in different countries can flow around the world. Under the influence of globalization, it has become easier to carry out transnational research cooperation, which can solve some academic problems or make breakthroughs in certain fields^[1]. UNESCO pointed out that as the North-South research and innovation gap narrows, global imbalances are decreasing, many countries are moving towards a knowledge economy, and cooperation between regions is increasing (Wende, 2017). Due to globalization, higher education has become more closely linked between countries, and it will bring a lot of economic benefits^[2]. The evidence (Altbach, 2004) was clear that developed countries charge corresponding fees for access to educational resources in developing countries, and related educational products have also made huge profits, such as English publishers publishing periodicals and books. Therefore, globalization has indeed brought many benefits, not only strengthening academic exchanges and cooperation, but also bringing economic effects^[3].

Having considered the positive effects of globalisation on Higher Education, certain negative aspect need to be considered. Firstly, It makes inequality worse. According to Altbach (2004), Good universities have always dominated the production and distribution of knowledge, therefore, stronger and richer countries will benefit from various resources, which will exacerbate international inequality. On the one hand, developed countries often have better educational resources and strong strength to invest in higher education, which makes their higher education more and more advanced. On the contrary, developing countries are always relatively short of resources and lack of strength to build, thus higher education always progresses slowly. Under the influence of globalization, developing countries do have more opportunities to obtain educational resources from developed countries, such as purchasing their databases. However, the cost of maintaining Internet access and updating the database is very high (Altbach, 2004, p.8). On the other hand, within the country, globalization only has a positive impact on a few wealthy people, who have the ability to obtain better educational resources, such as studying abroad. Therefore, globalization has increased the inequality between countries and within countries. This view is supported by Yang (2003), who writes that Globalization does not mean global equality that makes the rich become richer and guarantees the continuation of privileges, in this way the gap between rich and poor, and between overdeveloped and underdeveloped regions has grown exponentially^[4].

Secondly, under the influence of globalization, higher education has become increasingly utilitarian. Yang notes (2003) that the conditions of globalization have led to the rapid expansion of the global higher education market, mainly for economic motives and commercial purposes. Universities often expand enrollment indiscriminately, which is harmful to higher education. Universities are not to cultivate people but to make money. In the same vein, Docharty (2013) in his book notes that these globalization models require us to regard ourselves as commercial producers of human capital or human resources, and they will fully integrate into a world organized around the primacy of greedy competition in private finance. Now the idea of money supremacy in higher education is getting more and more serious. Driven by the interest, students become their product and national power has been transferred to private interests^[5]. As Wildavsky (2010) said that countries are striving to improve the human capital of their citizens and obtain economic

benefits from more and better education. However, due to lack of supervision, some of these schools have very poor reputation and teaching. In addition, more and more schools are actively carry out overseas education and cooperative education, nevertheless they cannot guarantee the quality of teaching. Schools are no longer education-oriented, but driven by money. Educational institutions no longer spend time researching education, but researching how to make better money.

Thirdly, academic and talent migration appear under the influence of globalization. A number of different studies (Altbach, 2004; Wildavsky, 2010; Yang, 2003, Kelly, 2010) asserted that under the influence of globalization, there is an unprecedented migration of talents and academics: scholars will work in more attractive countries, and students will go to better universities, which has weakened academic institutions in many developing countries and brain drain. In recent years, many scholars are attracted by the better working conditions, wages, access to higher-level academic research centers and more advanced equipment in developed countries. In addition, In the well-known academic system, English is the main language of instruction, and various English products also dominate the international academic market. Therefore, going to English-speaking countries will have more opportunities to speak up in the academic world. This makes a large number of academic talents and scholars go to Western countries for academic research or study. On the other hand, more and more students are going to study abroad to obtain better higher education. Many of them are attracted by the advantages of foreign employment prospects and so on, so they do not return home, causing a lot of brain drain^[6]. In short, the impact of globalization has led to excessive talent in developed countries, in contrast, a large loss of talent in developing countries.

Overall, Globalization indeed has promoted the development of the world. There is no doubt that It has brought number of benefits and played a positive role. However, at the same time, it has also had a large degree of negative influence on exacerbating inequality, utilitarianism, academic and talent transfer. In other words, The negative impact of globalization on higher education is greater than the positive impact.

Reference

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