

Sufficiency and sustainability through quality

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There is a belief in the community as evidenced by researches that Higher Education in the pursuit of rapid commercialization and internationalization is done at the expense of quality that has sustained rapid deterioration. Although education is free in Sri Lanka, it can be seen that higher education has become a business and public and private sector institutions are offering various type of educational programmes charging money. However, in the highly competitive business of education, the key question is the balance of the economics and sustainability while maintaining quality. This paper proposes a "sufficient and sustainable" model aimed at the core of HE success. In sufficiency, the key philosophy is the middle path that is moderating, reasonable and self resilient based on knowledge and virtuous conditions. Sufficiency must be sustained through the institution and individual capacity and capability. It calls for the institutional transformation of learning aimed at the teaching of the transformation of the students.

To create education value, two main sets of capacity is needed: the individual capacity which is the nuts and bolts of skills, knowledge, experience and personality and the non-individual capacity in the context of values, beliefs and ideas that influence the mind set. At the institutional level, institutional strengthening, procedural improvements and management and the 3 P's of capacity, product, performance and permanence are the imperatives of the capacity. In the capability aspects, the competency profiles of the teaching and learning must be defined as this forms the crux of quality that reflects real learning and transformation. The sufficiency and sustainability must also be viewed through the economics lens for long term sustainability based on quality.

Key words: Sufficiency, Sustainability, Higher education, Capacity, Capability

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