

Abstract

Education in Malaysia, as an industry, is currently undergoing tremendous change and growth. The increasing demand for tertiary education and the escalating cost of pursuing it overseas has led to the establishment of numerous private higher education institutions (PHEIs). While such development augers well with the current endeavour to make Malaysia as a global center of educational excellence and with the national human resource development objectives, it has brought about the need to study on how the Malaysian higher education expands, especially the private higher education (PHE) sector over the last three decades.

The Private Higher Education (PHE) in Malaysia has been one of the more remarkable success stories of the past fifteen years. Without doubt it was a classic instance of huge demand running smack bang into inadequate supply. It was impossible to bridge this vast chasm with the finite resources of government alone and so the decision was made to allow the private sector to play a vital complementary role to the national education effort and vision.

The first few chapters of this research paper will elaborate all about private higher education (PHE) sector generally as well as in more detailed by emphasizing on factors contributed towards the blossoming of this sector. Whereas, the later part of this research will discuss on achievements and challenges faced by private higher education sector and ends with some information on potentials for this sector.

It is hoped that this study would provide readers a clearer understanding on the potentials of the PHE sector in making Malaysia as a center of education excellence.