To Study the Impact of the Managerialism on the Academic Development of Higher Education Institutions in Hong Kong:

A Case Study of the PolyU

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ABSTRACT

To achieve productivity gain in public sector, Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP) was introduced by the SAR Government in 1998, which aims at ‘achieving more results with less spendings’. Under such policy, the most immediate and direct impact on higher education institutions is budget cuts. In line with the global trend, managerialism is well received by HEIs in Hong Kong as a means to achieve productivity gain.

While many people believed that HEIs should not reply too much on public money and should explore more sources of income, others worried that the over-emphasis on resources and efficiency would jeopardize the academic quality.

The new focus of UGC on ‘cost-effectiveness’ push HEIs emphasize on economic norms and values. Higher education become increasingly commercialised and academics are busy at how to run the ‘business’. Attention and time are devoted more on profit gaining activities. Markets instead of focusing on whole person development drive the offerings of subjects.

Based upon the managerial concepts, this paper examines the impact of the global tide of NPM on one of the HEIs in Hong Kong – The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). Whether the different measures adopted in PolyU can give us any insight on the future development of this University and other universities in the territory.
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