

Is Massification Producing the Desired Results for the Stakeholders in Tertiary Education in South Africa

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ABSTRACT Notions of quality differ for each of the stakeholders in education – students and parents, business and government. Quality massified tertiary education in response to the demographics of the country has raised some concerns in South Africa. The concerns, naturally differs for each of the stakeholders but running through are issues such as, quality and returns on the parents', businesses' and government's financial investments. These concerns address the fundamental question: What is quality massified education? The objective of this paper is to reflect on this question in an attempt to understand the position of South African tertiary education today. Focus will be placed on what each of the stakeholders in education see as the nature and outcome of quality education. The discussions also address whether there is disjuncture in how these stakeholders perceive quality massified education and its results. An examination is also made about how each stakeholder has contributed to South African tertiary education and intervention initiatives that can ensure massification meets stakeholders' expectations. The paper concludes that all stakeholders need to cooperate to redefine relevant quality tertiary education and how it can be achieved.