

Abstract

The objective of this study is to assess the vocational education policies of Macao, and the main purpose is to ensure vocational education policies are adequately serving their educational, economic and social functions. Document analysis, which was the primary research method of this study, was used to investigate the development of Macao's vocational education in recent years; while interviews of government officials and vocational school administrators were used as secondary sources of information for the assessment. Based on the criteria proposed by the National Assessment of Vocational Education (NAVE) of the United States for assessing vocational education, this study was similarly conducted to investigate and analyze Macao's vocational education from four aspects: participation, quality, outcome and impact, plus effectiveness of promising strategies. Following conclusions and recommendation are derived from this study.

Conclusions:

1. The participation in vocational education is limited in Macao.
2. Vocational education and general education are quite comparable in quality, but the design of vocational education is excessively dependent of teacher quality.
3. The outcomes and impacts of vocational education are affected by the misperception of the entire society of Macao toward vocational education, resulting in the lower quality of vocational education.
4. Vocational education has not played a supporting role in the social and economic development of Macao.

Suggestions:

1. To improve legal regulations of vocational education.
2. To expand vocational education both in number of students and in number of schools.
3. To enhance the connection between secondary vocational education and higher education.
4. To speed up Macao's curriculum reform of vocational education so it meets the demand of labor force and the need of social development.
5. To establish a systematic mechanism for monitoring vocational education.
6. To institute training facilities that is inter- or cross-enterprises for vocational education students
7. To make vocational information and promotion of vocational education organization part of vocational educator's responsibility.

Keywords: vocational education; policy; educational policy assessment