

Abstract

Background: At present, the education system of senior secondary schools in Macao is not uniform. Different secondary schools are using different curricula for their students. Hence, in the recruitment of Form 6 students, different tertiary institutions, like the University of Macau, the Macao Polytechnic Institute, the Institute for Tourism Studies and the Macao University of Science and Technology, have their own admission examinations. Also, Mainland China and Taiwan have well established tertiary admission systems for Macao students. Local students have to face with a variety of tertiary admission examinations in the pursuit of higher education.

Aims: This study mainly aims at collecting Macao Form 6 students' views on the admission system of higher education institutions.

Targets: Local Form 6 students of the academic year 2003/2004; and the University of Macau, the Macao Polytechnic Institute, the Institute for Tourism Studies and the Macao University of Science and Technology.

Research Methods: The methods of document analysis and postal questionnaire survey were employed. The survey instrument was piloted before being used for the main study to collect students' opinions on the admission system.

Results: The education policies of the Macao SAR do have influenced the

admission policies of local higher education institutions. On the whole, students inclined to have a uniform admission examination to be adopted by all local tertiary institutions. They have expressed views on the admission systems and the policies being used by the local tertiary institutions.

Conclusions: Macao should establish a uniform admission examination for local Form 6 students. Higher Education Institutions need to review their present selection procedures and should provide students with more details on the admission exercises. They should also offer a more variety of programmes. The government of Macao SAR should increase the resources support for local students in their progression to tertiary education.

Keywords: Admission Policy, Admission Examination, Uniform Examination, Uniform Admission Examination