

Abstract

The implementation of compulsory education is one of the most important public policies of a government. Education is not an expenditure but an investment in human resources. The benefits can be personal for people becoming educated and also can be societal, i.e., to improve the competitiveness of a society. There are three issues most often discussed and criticized by those who are concerned about the development of education, namely equality, quality and efficiency. The topic of this thesis is "In search of the development of compulsory education in Macao". In this thesis, the above three issues will be discussed and analyzed. It is suggested that the three issues can be considered as three dimensions in the development of an educational system. Since policies are implemented in order to maximize the satisfaction of citizens, therefore they are quite situational and contingent. Four suggestions have been made in order to consolidate the Macao educational system and to enhance the implementation of compulsory education in this region.

- i) allocate more resources in education and adopt a positive discriminatory policy for the disadvantaged;
- ii) empower the education authority and parents so that an equilibrium situation in the schools' decisions making process can be achieved;
- iii) impose a regional curriculum and a scientific and systematic evaluation scheme;
- iv) define the minimum criteria for schools in order to improve the schooling environment.