

Write an academic essay to evaluate the extent to which higher education should be expanded in Hong Kong. You may want to include the reasons for and the drawbacks of the expansion of higher education, or anything else that can support your position.

More and more overseas companies can participate in our Hong Kong local market because of globalization in the 21st Century. In which case, the competition among the companies is becoming much more vigorous than the old days. To maintain our high competitiveness and provide a quality labor market, higher education should be expanded in Hong Kong in large extent.

The expansion of higher education in large extent can build up the knowledge-based society. M Lee defines (2014) that higher education includes public and private universities and self-financed community colleges. For example: University of Hong Kong (HKU), Hang Seng Management College, and the Caritas Francis Hsu College¹. Growth in number of higher education institutions can lead to a high competitive education environment and more higher education institutions are going to focus on the quality of the professional programme in order to maintain the world ranking of higher education institutions. In this case, secondary school students can have more opportunity to receive higher education and more elites can be able to contribute themselves to the society, including health-care system and technology. For an example, IVE (a new higher education institution) students won Hong Kong ICT Awards in 2020 and they designed a program to facilitate students e-learning during COVID-19 pandemic period². Obviously, more elites can be nurtured by other higher education institutions instead of traditional universities and they can be contributed to the society with their professional knowledge when there is an expansion of higher education. In short, the expansion of higher education in large extent can build up the knowledge-based society to maintain our high competitiveness.

The expansion of higher education in large extent can alleviate the problem caused by the wealth-gap. J. Jung and G. Postiglione state that (2015) students are not convinced to pay a higher fee for a semester at a community college than that paid for a semester at a university, even though an associate degree is less valued than a bachelor's degree in the job market.³ The expansion of higher education in large extent can also lower the fee for the community college in certain extent. In which case, more students from low-income and middle-income families can afford the price of more higher education institutions, other than traditional local universities. They can acquire more professional knowledge in the higher education institution and maintain their high competitiveness in the labour market to receive a higher salary. In other words, they can less economic burden and have a higher life quality. It can also rise our overall Hong Kong living standard and maintain our high quality labour market.

In short, expansion of higher education in Hong Kong in large extent can maintain our high competitiveness and provide a quality labor market because more elites from higher education institutions can work together to

¹ M. Lee, From a journal called Hong Kong Teachers' Centre Journal, 2014, Volume 13, Issue 1, Pages 15-33

² 東網, 疫情無阻網課 IVE 生創「AI 助教」全天候解題奪獎, 5-9-

2022, https://hk.on.cc/hk/bkn/cnt/news/20201107/bkn-20201107131413666-1107_00822_001.html

³ J. Jung and G. Postiglione, From a book called From massification towards the post-massification of higher education in Hong Kong, 2015, Published in Hong Kong, Published by Springer

provide a better environment in Hong Kong.