



Doctorates, Development and the Brain Drain

The purpose of the PhD, and characteristics of those who have PhDs

- Is there any value in a PhD if you can simply buy them off the shelf?
- What is the link between a PhD and employment?
- understanding and synthesis of new ways of thinking
 - Needs really in-depth understanding
- The creative unknown
- States having control over their future destiny, must have people able to think at the highest level
 - health
 - education
 - finance
 - policy
 - sustainable development
- Should be a substantial contribution to store of human knowledge
 - Historical perspective
- Someone should have a relative control of the knowledge of a discipline, and should have innovated something
 - if you do not have questions, you have not moved knowledge forward
- Being present where other scholars are
 - Being part of a scholarly community
 - This is a real issue for distance based students
- Side effects of a PhD
 - often it is a disadvantage in seeking some kinds of job
 - Sometimes easier to get a job with a Master's than a PhD degree

Alternative models of delivery

- Value of experiential PhDs
- Difference between a 20 year old doing a PhD and what someone at 40 years old may do
 - Extremely difficult for the 40 year old beginning
- Engineering doctorate in the UK - half done in industry.
 - These are popular
- Split-site; part-time; distance based
- Idea of an international PhD
 - Spending some time in a different culture
- Bilateral agreements between different universities
 - A variety of partnerships are possible
- Huge value of going abroad
 - But very expensive
 - Can really raise standards
- Developed country universities should help students from poorer countries
 - Looking for agencies to fund these
 - There are real potential synergies
- Equivalence of difference degrees?

The Brain Drain

- Very different experiences
- It is possible to create schemes that do ensure people go home to contribute to their countries
 - Linked to finances
 - If people do not come back they do not contribute to social development
- Programme investing in bringing back distinguished scholars to their own countries
 - Offering an attractive reason to come back
 - creating the sort of research group they are used to
 - Quality of life does matter
- Empowering universities in developing countries
 - They contribute to their countries through giving back money
 - helping people with education
 - Keeping in touch through newspapers
- People are looking at Brain Drain in Africa in new ways
 - Diasporas are NOT disconnected with their countries
- Research infrastructure is very important

PhD Quality - do we need standards?

- Variations between countries
 - Variation even within the same universities
- Yes we do!
- Real problems when people with 'poor' PhDs are now supervising
 - they would have no idea of what the quality should be
 - Need for training of these people
- Higher doctorate
 - To supervise, you need many years of research before you can supervise
- External examiners
 - Choosing from senior academics in prestigious universities
- Danger of pigeon holing students from less recognised universities
- Differences between the qualification and the processes that lead to the qualification
- Higher education is declining in importance in UNESCO
 - Perhaps a role for UNESCO in standardisation of post-docs
 - Need to do more to support UNESCO's HE sector
- Bologna process - 3,5,8 years
- Keep it short but keep it analytical!

WISE focuses a lot on primary and secondary education - needs to address universities more

Might we develop a set of standards?