

New Frontiers in Higher Education Working Paper No. 11

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Summary

In this document, the author comparatively exposes the behaviour of higher education institutions in the United States before and after the Second World War; which once ended, placed the country as one of the two world superpowers of the moment.

key words

Higher education, innovation, training programs, teaching methodologies, virtual education, creativity

Introduction

By the mid-twentieth century - prewar period, access to higher education institutions in the United States was low, since, at the time, those who accessed were only people with high purchasing power and IQ. The high dropout rate generated that HEIs were seen as an unnecessary experience for the youth of the time.

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Higher education creativity and innovation

In the post-war period, the high number of war veterans was presented as a problem for the nation. The government of the time then issued a law under which it decided to create education and training programs that allowed the social reincorporation of the fighters who participated, allowing them to access higher education and obtain professional training, which in turn, it generated an increase in the generation of independent businesses which, with creativity and innovation, contributed to the economic strengthening of the country, which allowed it to further consolidate itself as a power.

The involvement of people who actively participated in the war to an educational space required the efforts of teachers, who had to adjust or create new teaching methodologies. Later, the demand for education services began to increase, and HEIs decided to formalise admission policies, which began to be questioned, once they were able to observe how student performance was better when it was based on creativity and not on the high school grades curriculum they had.

In the country, the creation of public universities and community colleges has provided opportunities for low-income people. Currently, virtual education ends up being an excellent option for those who have little time to move to a center or for those who have obligations that they must attend to like their families.

Conclusions

Considering the status quo, the invitation once again is for us to be resilient and to seek new alternatives for development and growth that help to more easily overcome the aftermath of events as difficult as a war or a pandemic.

Education, without a doubt, is the tool that provides opportunities and possibilities to advance to retake and consolidate a better situation in a given territory.

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