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GLOBALIZATION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION?

Deepak Nayyar

Abstract

The object of this paper is to reflect upon the intersection of, and explore the interconnections between, globalization and higher education. It outlines the essential characteristics of globalization, to set the stage before the play begins, with a focus on its meaning and dimensions. It then develops an analytical framework to consider how globalization relates to, or influences, the world of higher education. It argues that the retreat of the State and the advance of the market have changed the national context. And the spread of markets is beginning to exercise a significant influence on higher education. There are dangers inherent in such commercialization. But there are also some opportunities of learning from markets. At the same time, it shows that the gathering momentum of globalization, which has changed the international context, is beginning to reshape higher education. The associated globalization of higher education has important, positive and negative, implications for development. Markets and globalization, together, could transform the world of higher education. But education as business, particularly in universities, is not conducive to economic development and social progress. Therefore, countries should formulate policies for higher education in the pursuit of development, so as to minimize the dangers and capture the opportunities created by markets and globalization.