ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION: CAUSES OF DROPOUT AND PRACTICES THAT CAN ENCOURAGE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

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Access to Higher Education Diplomas
• Full level 3 qualifications like A-levels (CAVA).
• Prepare those without traditional qualifications for university study, at degree level (QAA).

Problem
High dropout rate – About 23%

Methodology
• Research to be carried out in two colleges in the same county
• Research design: Case study.
• Methods of data collection: Individual interviews and focus groups
• Students who have dropped out as well as Tutors and Co-ordinators will be interviewed individually.
• Focus group interviews to be conducted with current Access to HE students.

Analysis
Discourse analysis and content analysis with Nvivo used in coding.

About the research
This research work seeks to find the causes of dropout from Access to Higher Education courses and the practices that can encourage completion of those courses, especially among the people from deprived areas, while intending to answer the following research questions:
• What are the causes of dropout among Access to HE learners?
• What practices are in place to reduce the dropout rates of access to HE learners?
• What factors influence these practices?

Trends in completion rate of Access to HE courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic years</th>
<th>2012-13</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Access to HE learners completing their courses by the end of the academic year</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage awarded Access to HE Diploma among those who completed their courses</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage transferred/withdrawn</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of learners still continuing their courses</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: www.stockfreeimages.com

References

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