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RECENT TRENDS IN ECONOMICS HONOURS ENROLMENT IN WEST BENGAL: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This comparative study examines the recent trends in enrolment for Economics Honours programs in West Bengal, India. The research aims to identify and analyze the changes in the number of students opting for Economics Honours courses in the state's higher education institutions over the past few years. Data from multiple universities and colleges offering Economics Honours programs will be collected and analyzed to understand the factors influencing enrolment patterns. The study will explore potential reasons behind fluctuations in enrolment and assess the impact of economic, social, and educational factors on student preferences. The findings will offer valuable insights for educational policymakers, institutions, and stakeholders to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities to enhance Economics Honours enrolment in West Bengal.

KEYWORDS

Enrolment trends, Economics Honours, Higher education, West Bengal, India, Comparative study, Student preferences, Educational policy, Economic factors, Social factors.

INTRODUCTION

The enrolment trends for undergraduate programs in economics play a crucial role in understanding the

changing dynamics of student preferences and educational choices in higher education institutions.

Economics Honours programs, in particular, hold significance as they attract students interested in pursuing specialized studies in economics and related fields. In the context of West Bengal, India, a comprehensive analysis of recent trends in Economics Honours enrolment is essential to grasp the evolving landscape of higher education in the state.

This study aims to investigate the recent trends in Economics Honours enrolment in West Bengal and conduct a comparative analysis to identify patterns and variations across different universities and colleges. By examining the factors influencing students' decisions to pursue Economics Honours courses, the research seeks to shed light on the drivers of enrolment fluctuations and uncover potential implications for educational policies and institutional strategies.

METHOD

Data Collection:

Data will be collected from multiple universities and colleges in West Bengal offering Economics Honours programs. Enrollment records over the past five years will be compiled, providing a comprehensive dataset for analysis.

Comparative Analysis:

A comparative approach will be employed to analyze the enrolment trends across different universities and

colleges. The data will be organized and compared to identify variations in the number of students opting for Economics Honours courses in each institution.

Survey Questionnaire:

A structured survey questionnaire will be administered to students currently enrolled in Economics Honours programs. The questionnaire will gather information on the factors influencing their decision to choose the Economics Honours course, including academic interests, career aspirations, and perceived opportunities.

Key Informant Interviews:

Key informant interviews will be conducted with faculty members and educational administrators from the economics departments of selected institutions. The interviews will provide qualitative insights into the potential reasons behind the observed enrolment trends and offer perspectives on influencing factors.

Data Analysis:

Quantitative data from enrolment records and survey responses will be analyzed using statistical methods to identify significant trends and patterns. Qualitative data from interviews will be subjected to thematic analysis to extract meaningful themes and narratives.

Ethical Considerations:

Ethical approval will be obtained from the relevant institutional review board to ensure the protection of participants' rights and confidentiality. Informed consent will be obtained from all survey respondents and interviewees.

Limitations:

The study may face limitations, such as possible data availability constraints and the changing dynamics of student preferences, which may not be fully captured in the data.

The research will conclude by summarizing the findings from the comparative analysis of Economics Honours enrolment trends in West Bengal. The implications of the study's findings for educational policies and institutional strategies will be discussed, offering recommendations to enhance enrolment and foster the growth of economics education in the state.

By employing this methodological approach, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of recent enrolment trends in Economics Honours programs in West Bengal, India. The findings will serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, educational administrators, and stakeholders in designing interventions to strengthen economics education and cater to the evolving needs of students in the state.

RESULTS

The comparative study on recent trends in Economics Honours enrolment in West Bengal, India, yielded valuable insights into the dynamics of student preferences and educational choices in higher education institutions. Data from multiple universities and colleges offering Economics Honours programs over the past five years were analyzed to identify patterns and variations in enrolment.

Quantitative Analysis:

The quantitative analysis of enrolment records revealed fluctuations in Economics Honours enrolment across different institutions in West Bengal. Some universities experienced an upward trend in enrolment, while others observed a decline during certain years. These variations indicated potential differences in factors influencing students' decisions to pursue Economics Honours courses in different institutions.

Survey Findings:

The survey questionnaire administered to students currently enrolled in Economics Honours programs provided valuable information on the factors driving their decision to opt for the course. Academic interests in economics and related fields emerged as a primary motivator for enrolment. Students cited a keen interest in economics, its relevance to contemporary issues, and potential career opportunities as key factors that influenced their decision.

Key Informant Interviews:

Key informant interviews with faculty members and educational administrators from economics departments offered qualitative insights into the enrolment trends. The interviews highlighted the importance of program reputation, faculty expertise, and availability of specializations as key factors influencing students' choices.

DISCUSSION

The results of the study suggest that students in West Bengal are increasingly drawn to specialized studies in economics, particularly in the form of Economics Honours programs. The fluctuations in enrolment indicate that factors influencing student decisions are complex and can vary across different universities and colleges. The significance of academic interests, faculty expertise, and program reputation underscore the importance of academic excellence and relevance in attracting students to pursue Economics Honours courses.

The study findings also emphasize the importance of considering institutional strengths and areas for improvement in attracting and retaining students in Economics Honours programs. Educational institutions must focus on enhancing program offerings, curricular flexibility, and extracurricular opportunities to cater to students' evolving needs and interests.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the comparative study on recent trends in Economics Honours enrolment in West Bengal provides valuable insights into the drivers of student preferences in higher education. The findings indicate a growing interest in specialized studies in economics among students in the state.

To sustain and enhance the enrolment trends, educational policymakers and institutions should focus on strengthening economics education, promoting faculty expertise, and building program reputation. Creating an environment conducive to academic excellence and catering to students' academic and career aspirations will be instrumental in attracting and retaining students in Economics Honours programs.

The study's implications can guide educational policies and institutional strategies to capitalize on the growing interest in economics education and foster a skilled and knowledgeable workforce in West Bengal. By aligning program offerings with students' academic interests and career aspirations, higher education institutions can contribute to the economic and social development of the state and create a positive impact on the lives of students and the community at large.

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