

2nd International Conference on Higher Education Advances, HEAd'16, 21-23 June 2016,
València, Spain

Dropout: Demographic profile of Brazilian university students

Luciane Bonaldo^{a,b,c,*}, Luis Nobre Pereira^{d,e}

^aNOVA IMS - Information Management School, New University of Lisbon, Portugal

^bUniversity of São Paulo, ECA School of Arts and Communication, Brazil

^cUniversity Anhembi Morumbi, Brazil

^dSchool of Management, Hospitality and Tourism, University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal

^eResearch Centre for Spatial and Organizational Dynamics (CIEO), University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal

Abstract

This study analyses dropout in higher education, a worldwide problem seen in the literature of developed and developing countries. The aim of the study is to explain dropout in Brazil's private higher education. Dropout is defined as the interruption of studies by students in higher education enrolled for any length of time, regardless of university change before its conclusion. This research uses data from students, which are the main population in higher education. Thus, the research is based on a survey questionnaire conducted to a higher education student population. These students can be divided in two categories to be compared: the regular private higher education students and the college students who have stopped their studies. The empirical study begins by a characterization of the respondents, followed by a logistical regression in order to identify the determinants of dropout. Age, change of marital status during the course, having scholarship and asking for funding were considered as determinants of dropout. Results of this research give contribution to young students, the society, the government, private higher education institutions and indirectly to the companies.

© 2016 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Peer-review under responsibility of the organizing committee of HEAd'16

Keywords: Dropout; Private Higher Education; Determinants of dropout, Logistical regression.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +55 11 97577-0252; fax: +55 11 3847-3203.
E-mail address: luciane.bonaldo@gmail.com

1. Introduction

The aim of this article is the identification of factors that take students to withdraw from Brazil's private higher education before concluding their studies. This phenomenon does not occur just in universities, but also in the education of adults. However, the focus of this research is exclusively on the university students. Several terminologies are used for "education stopping" before its conclusion, such as school leave and withdrawal, because they are synonyms. In this article the terminology adopted is dropout, whose presented definition means the interruption of studies by higher education students regularly enrolled for any length of time, regardless of university change before its conclusion.

To say that the cause of dropout occurs exclusively due to financial reasons becomes questionable, since dropout involves from low income students to the most financially well-off ones. In addition, in Brazil dropout remains high even with tuition reimbursement programs, namely the financing program that the Federal Government has created with a 3.4% interest rate per year for private institutions. In fact, there are many reasons that may influence the student in decision-making for the college dropout. Those reasons have social, academic and demographic features (Schnepf, 2014; Stratton, O'Toole, & Wetzez, 2008).

The study of dropout in the private higher education in Brazil evaluates the identification and confirmation of dropout relation to demographic, economic and social factors and also to academic quality. A study in Italy showed a relation among dropout and demographic and economic factors, and also academic quality (Ghignoni, 2015). Other studies indicate that the early leave of university students results in loss in social, governmental, business, personal and family amplitude (Zotti, 2015; Hanushek & Wößmann, 2010; Stratton, O'Toole, & Wetzez, 2008).

To identify the factors that lead to dropout in private higher education in Brazil will result in a valuable contribution that can support higher education institutions for a strategic planning in order to reduce the percentage of top national dropout. Other contributions of this study are extended to university students, to the Brazilian society and to the industry as a whole, as they will also benefit from the results of this investigation under the following aspects: (1) students, by being able to receive incentives to become more qualified and increase their human capital; (2) the society, by increasing the educational level of the Brazilian population, which puts the country in a more favorable position for its growth and development; (3) the industry, which will benefit in general from the hiring of labor that is more qualified and ready for operation.

2. Literature Review

Dropout is a global problem that occurs even in developed countries, where the implantation of enrollment fees may affect significantly the decision to stop the studies (Bradley & Migali, 2013). Countries as the United States of America and the United Kingdom have witnessed substantial increases in abandonment rates in the universities, while enrollment grows in university courses. The funding depends on the credit grants according to age, academic performance, wage and professional prospects (Johnson, 2013; Rothstein & Rouse, 2011; Stinebrickner & Stinebrickner, 2008).

Dropout in higher education can represent a very high cost for students, especially if there is an association between low wage and unemployment risk (Arulampalam, Naylor, & Smith, 2005). The financial factor may be one of the causes of dropout, but not the single one. The family income has become an increasingly important factor in the determination of college enrollment in the United States of America (Belley, Frenette, & Lochner, 2014). The association between this family income and the reduction of employability rate diminishes the access to higher education, increasing as a result higher education dropout.

There is also evidence that the higher the education level of the parents and their economic conditions, the greater the chances of students completing their courses, as well as the smaller the schooling and the lower the financial resources, the greater the chances of stopping the study and withdraw (Ghignoni & Zotti, 2015).

In addition, there are studies indicating that students education is directly related to the job market and the higher the educational level, the greater the chances of placing on the market when compared to young people who have lower educational degree (Zotti, 2015). Business organizations are strong influencers for the permanence of students in universities and for the conclusion of their higher studies, because organizations expect a good educational level from their employees (Stratton, O'Toole, & Wetzez, 2008). This time, the job market can be another factor related

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1107131>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1107131>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)