Case Debrief

Micah Whitfield, Rodolfo Gutierrez, Nathan Ng

EDUC-U215

Indiana University
Abstract

In this case debrief, we will be discussing higher education in the United States. We will talk about the structure of the American system and how it affects the students. Also, the roles of costs and benefits in comparison to foreign education. In foreign countries, students go through more direct preparation for a specific career while American students are given a more broad overview. The topics in this debrief will be focused directly towards Indiana University and how the university is affected by the cost of tuition for students and how well they are prepared to earn a job post-graduation. Also how there will be suggestions included on how Indiana University can make changes to improve on the issues discussed in this case debrief.
Education has always been a big topic in America especially this year. 2016 is an important year for America as a country. This is the year that we elect our president for the next four years who will be a key player in the policies that we create. With other countries pulling ahead of America in the quality of their education, this topic has been heavily debated throughout the year. Likewise, this is what we shall be discussing throughout our case debrief.

In America once students have graduated high school there is a strong emphasis for them to go onto college to further their education and further prepare them for a job in the real world. Colleges are intended to test and improve students critical thinking skills while simultaneously providing them with life skills in order to prepare them for a job after receiving their degree. Unfortunately, American colleges does not guarantee a job after earning a degree and in many cases students who continue on to college find themselves swimming in massive amounts of student loan debt. In contrast other countries send their students directly to professional colleges like medical or law school upon high school graduation. Not only are these schools cheaper than American universities, students are guaranteed a job upon completion of the curriculum and receiving their degree. This means that foreign students not only incur less debt, if any, but will already have a source of income to provide for themselves.

This case debrief will be focused on a few major components throughout its entirety. First it will be weighing the pros and cons of pursuing a traditional college education after high school versus attending a professional school upon graduating from high school. Second it will be comparing the differences between a higher education here in America compared to higher education in a foreign country. The third component of the debrief will focus on is the difference in cost of pursuing the American form of higher education from traditional college university versus the cost of pursuing a higher education in a foreign country. The fourth and final
component of the debrief will focus on whether higher education in America should be a right or a privilege.

Indiana University is a traditional college in which you have to go through your four years of undergraduate studies before you can move on to a higher degree. Unlike other countries, in the United States, the education system here is somewhat based on a liberal type of education so students can get a different perspective from all kinds of fields. By doing so some students figure out what their real passion is rather than pursuing an education in which you are not completely interested in and wasting your money and time in that field of study. Indiana University is impacted by being a liberal education school and has had much success throughout its years of existence. This situation affects all groups that are involved at Indiana University.

For the students, they are made sure they know what they are pursuing by taking different classes that don’t involve their major to broaden their views of the world and education. As for the staff here at Indiana University, such as the professors, they get to really expand the minds of the students of the future. While they do research, they also get to interact with students from different majors and learn from them rather than having only students with the same major because Indiana University likes to have diversity.

The administration here at IU helps guide students transition into college by giving them a variety of options to explore and helping them find their true calling in the world. Although Indiana University is based on liberal education, some students that come here feel as though they are wasting time and money on classes they are not interested because they feel as if they know what they want already and shouldn’t have to take unnecessary classes. One thing that has slightly changed might be that college is more expensive now but because of that, Indiana
University has created more opportunities for students to be able to make college affordable and give the lower class students an opportunity to do something with their life.

The pros and cons of traditional higher education versus professional school lie with the curriculum and one’s point of interest and career direction. The benefits of a traditional research university allow a student to master a particular field of study while professional school focuses more on preparing someone for a specific career applications. A major factor that plays a part in this is how much it costs for a higher education and whether a job post-graduation is guaranteed. In other countries, students in professional schools pay less for their education and are guaranteed becoming hired upon earning their degree.

Indiana University should concern itself with this particular case because it deals with the worth of college education to people who could attend Indiana University. The criteria for whether a student wants to decide to attend IU depends on how well this university prepares them to earn a career after graduation and and if is it worth the cost of tuition that could lead them into large sums of debt. A higher education is an investment in one’s future and if they incur more debt than money they make in their future career then students would deem this university not worth its costs because its costs outweigh the benefits. So this case needs to be answered by Indiana University as it determines if more students want to attend IU or deem it not worth it’s costs.

There are ways that Indiana University’s administration can improve its academic and social environments to address this case by lowering costs, improving the career development centers and improving availability of networking with alumni. The administration of IU can lower costs for tuition by providing more financial aid from FAFSA because out of state tuition is twice the price of in state tuition. The costs for a research university here at IU are more
expensive out of state than more state schools and this causes more students to be in debt causing less students to want to apply to IU from places all over the country so it's important tuition is worth it for out of state students. Another necessary improvement to address this case would be for the improvements to the Career Development Center and making it necessary to see them so all students become more aware of what they can do besides just a presentation they give. Administration can improve it by getting more funding so it's more readily available with their resources to help students get a job now and after their graduate and making students required to go. Also improving the availability of networking with alumni and recruiting from their firms is something administration can do to help students get a job right out of college. IU can create more alumni networking events and allow more students to be aware they are happening because there are all these resources but some students just aren't aware they happen or their available.
Reference Lists
