

MOTIVATION OF FOREIGN CITIZENS FOR STUDY

International students travel abroad to study for some reasons such as quality education, an opportunity to study and work at the same time, career improvement, low tuition fee and the chance to study abroad. The British Council student decision making survey includes information gathered from around 115,000 students from 200 countries. The survey found that when choosing a abroad, just over half of the students put quality of education in their top three priorities and just over a quarter(26.3%) see the reputation of the country as a key factor (John Morgan, September, 10, 2010).

Motivation is an inner drive to behave or act in a certain manner. It is something which arouses someone to act towards a desired goal. We are looking at what drives foreign students to study. Individuals are driven by 2 types of motivation. They are either driven by interest or enjoyment in the task itself or by external cohesion or the reward at hand. Students who study with the determination of obtaining knowledge for their own benefits are intrinsically motivated. They are more likely to engage in task willingly and work to improve their skills. Those activities that are performed in order to obtain a reward are extrinsically motivated. A student who studies his lecture material in order to get a grad 'A' and not to gain knowledge for self benefits is extrinsically motivated.

The question is, why should we consider motivation in the context of foreign students? How should foreign students be motivated to study. There are many factors which contribute to this. When a foreign student is asked, what motivates him to study, irrespective of the cultural background, a teacher is often considered as a factor. Teachers are potential role models of students, therefore to motivate a foreign student to study, Teachers must be fair to students, give out good materials or hand outs, be well prepared, give good assignment, respect students, be approachable, to mention but few. These could be exhibited through valuing each persons ideas and opinions because students feel safe to express themselves when not intimidated. Mutual respect in class brings about collaborative work and boosts a student's self confidence. It is also advisable to keep students engaged both in the class room and after school hours. This can be exhibited through giving them opportunities to present in class and also to make home research task. This keeps them busy and also ready to learn more. Nevertheless, students must also give breaks as too much stress would cause them to be lazy. Therefore giving students breaks to rest is very crucial for them and encouraged students to study.

Furthermore, the feeling of acceptance also motivates foreigners to study. Students who feel accepted and welcomed where ever they find themselves gives them a sense of peaceful and concentrated minds to sturdy. Therefore when the people of the country are hostile and not friendly to foreign students, they feel unwelcomed and a low self esteem discourages them to study. This is as a result of not being appreciated for what they do and how they perform in class.