National Outward Mobility Scholarships

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Project Summary

- Context
  - Increasing number of countries offering outward mobility scholarships;
  - Little known about most scholarship programs; and
  - No previous review of scholarship schemes.

Project Summary (continued)

- Goals: Learn more about
  - why these programs are established;
  - how they are designed, administered, and funded;
  - who participates in them and where; and
  - what impact they are having.

>> Better understanding of scholarship programs benefits participants, sponsors, and hosts.

Case Countries

- Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam

- These countries selected as a "representative" sample:
  - geographic;
  - political and economic; and
  - diversity in approaches.

Findings

- Motivations:
  - National development
  - Human capacity development
  - Organization reform and performance enhancement
  - Interpersonal and international connection enhancement
  - Social inequities (rare)

Findings (continued)

- Most countries use scholarships to supplement cross-border mobility programming (Exceptions: Saudi Arabia, Brazil)

Country	Total Tertiary Outward Mobility Per Year	Total Tertiary Outward Mobility Receiving Government Support Per Year	Percent of Total Tertiary Outward Mobility Receiving Government Support
Brazil	26,148	7,300	27.9%
China	562,889	13,000	2.3%
Egypt	11,627	500	4.3%
India	200,621	30	0.0%
Indonesia	34,067	3,500	10.3%
Kazakhstan	36,594	1,000	2.7%
Mexico	25,836	3,000	11.6%
Pakistan	34,290	1,000	2.9%
Russia	49,585	100	0.2%
Saudi Arabia	41,532	30,000	72.2%
Vietnam	47,979	500	1.0%

Findings (continued)

- Most scholarships support graduate education in STEM fields
- Average annual per person expenditures: US$35-40,000
- Most awardees are: urban, male, affluent
- Most awardees study at highly-ranked institutions in developed countries

Impact

- Most advantage accrues to individuals

- Organizations benefit via
  - higher-skill employees;
  - operation and quality improvements;
  - new partnerships

Impact (continued)

- Nations benefit via
  - workforce skill improvements
  - multiplier effect (educators)
  - positive press
- Other benefits
  - Financial boost to host institutions
  - New collaborative projects
  - Goodwill

Lessons Learned

- No “best” model exists
- Administration should be “flexible” and “reflective”
- Good recruitment and process transparency important

Lessons Learned (continued)

- Engage and leverage scholars on return
- Design programs around specific objectives and develop and deploy concrete impact procedures
- Even if participants are few, impacts can be significant

Thank you

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