

Global Private Higher Education:

Phenomenal Expansion and Implications for Quality Assurance



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Introduction to Talk

- 🌐 Honor for me
- 🌐 Private Higher Education (**PHE**) crucial to HE privatization (with partial privatization of public HE)
- 🌐 PHE growth = one of HE's important developments
- 🌐 31% of global enrollment! (> US)
- 🌐 huge HE p-p distinctiveness, so size matters (\$, governance & politics, functions & priorities—and QA)
- 🌐 Talk has 2 Parts: Growth; Types of PHE
- 🌐 *Intersperse Implications for QA (italics)*
- 🌐 (Now to Part I: Growth)



Part I: Growth

US Emergence and Size (quick)

- 🌐 Pioneer: earliest PHE (continuous)
- 🌐 Private precedes public (vs rest of world)
- 🌐 Historically high % fell from 50% to 22% 1950-75; now 26%)
- 🌐 Stable ratio of PHE/total for decades
- 🌐 Reflects continued large growth in PHE *absolute* enrolment—so US still #1 in absolute PHE size
- 🌐 % remains very high compared to most developed countries



PHE Global Highs & Lows

- 🌐 Often marginal or no PHE until latter half 20th
- 🌐 Large PHE growth now in developing world
- 🌐 Japan & Korea only majority PHE in developed
- 🌐 Rare no PHE: N. Korea, Cuba
- 🌐 W Europe & M East sole PHE peripheral but...
- 🌐 So HE was social field very low in private size
(even vs. other ed) but now high
- 🌐 *Until PHE large, QA not major issue*



Largest PHE Regions

- Global data at PROPHE (<http>
- **Asia** greatest size & variability (0 to 80%)
- E. Asia 39% PHE
- Several PHE $\geq 70\%$ (Korea, Japan, Philippines)
- Others average 20-50% (e.g., India, Malaysia)
- Some small but # potential (e.g. China)
- **Latin America** 45-50%; vs. 3% Sp Am 1950
- Large PHE majorities (e.g. Brazil, Chile)



Other Regions & Global

- 🌍 Middle East: last major region but most countries (gov't role; across regimes; int'l)
- 🌍 Africa = next youngest, but growing; Anglo
- 🌍 E. Europe spurt post-communist
- 🌍 PHE global % will continue rising & (with privz of publics), HE more private than public??)
- 🌍 threats to PHE size: demographics, political shifts, *weak QA amid* rising p-p competition; But private resilience (adult, DE, x-border)
Yet rapid growth (esp unplanned, with huge demand) often leads to serious QA issues



Part II: Types of PHE

- 🌐 PHE is not one thing
- 🌐 Subsectors/just p vs p
- 🌐 We look at 4 principal PHE types
- 🌐 Each with its own characteristics
(though overlap)
- 🌐 (& you i.d. weight in your country)



First Type = Identity: Religious Rise

- 🌍 Religion common start for non-profits
- 🌍 Many PHE globally start with religion
- 🌍 Early US colleges Protestant
- 🌍 Catholic main globally
- 🌍 as public HE became secular (LA)



Shifting Identities

- Decline of religious core in society
- Less relig weight in post-60s PHE surges
- & decline in religiousness of prior religious institutions (e.g. US , LA)
- But PHE re-creates self
- New religious proliferation, including Islamic (Kenya; Thai; M. East)
- (Though also public Islamic)
- & Ethnic for minorities (E Europe),
- with protective & promotional purposes
- *Not usually major QA problems* (esp in older & larger religious)



Second Type = Semi-Elite: Characteristics

- 🌐 Lack elite private research u outside US
- 🌐 Tho academic peak = public, 2nd tier p&p
- 🌐 Between elite & non-elite
- 🌐 Students select; teach/basic research
- 🌐 Entrepreneurial, competitive, professionally managed; jobs; fields
- 🌐 Very private, even profit
- 🌐 Some religious but most secular
- 🌐 Seek academic legitimacy
- 🌐 Int'l ties & models; often Western-oriented, market, pol conservative
- 🌐 Fast growing; all regions?



Third Type:

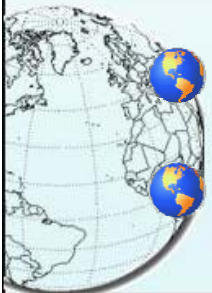
Non-elite Demand-Absorbers

- 🌍 Globally, D-A great bulk of PHE
- 🌍 (Sometimes D-A PHE is bulk of total HE)
- 🌍 And fastest expansion (developing countries)
- 🌍 D>S & gov't can't or won't pay
- 🌍 Students choose some HE/none
- 🌍 *Here big issues of QA: (rise often unplanned laissez-faire; easy entry & market; then "delayed regulation")*
- 🌍 *Crucial to distinguish frauds-poor from "Serious D-A" (an accreditation role & avoid blanket treatment)*



Fourth Type: For-Profits

- 🌐 4th type or fit to other 3 types, esp. d-a
- 🌐 Includes 'phony' nonprofits
- 🌐 Fp legal rise (US 8%, Bz 20%, S Af most)
- 🌐 & p-p partnerships (for-profit college, public u)
- 🌐 Int'l (Laureate, Apollo, x-border); illegitimate d-a or serious d-a or even semi-elite?
- 🌐 Most distinctive from public (\$, gov, mission)
- 🌐 *All QA issues of d-a; + legally permit fps?;*
- 🌐 *Market for FP QA > for phony nonprofits?*
- 🌐 *(Or QA via int'l ties, PPP, branches, chains)*¹³



Conclusions

- 🌐 Huge global growth of PHE
- 🌐 Breadth: Regions & range of PHE types
- 🌐 Though P-P blur grows over time, mostly more privateness in PHE; p-p matters
- 🌐 But also big differences across PHE types
- 🌐 On QA, it's the Demand-Absorbers & For Profits that present the greatest challenges & debate
- 🌐 PHE growth is a major reason for the rise of QA regulations & accreditation agencies

