

WHAT HAS ACCREDITATION IMPACTED ON VIETNAMESE UNIVERSITIES? A QUALITATIVE DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

Huu Cuong Nguyen

School of Education, The University of New South Wales, AUSTRALIA

Email: cuongnh29@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

While there can be little doubt of the purpose of quality assurance and accreditation in developed countries particularly as a means to demonstrate quality improvement, the question remains as to whether or not accreditation results in quality enhancement in developing countries. In order to find the answer, this paper presents an analysis of 20 institutional quality assurance reports from 20 Vietnamese universities. In this regard, the study reveals that there are a number of notable impacts resulting from the introduction of accreditation in higher education institutions in Vietnam. Key impacts are reported in relation to: establishment of the quality assurance unit, mission and purpose; leadership and management; staff members and lecturers; students and student support; curricula; training activities; research; international cooperation; facilities; finance; and future plans.

Keywords: Accreditation, quality assurance, evaluation, impact, higher education, Vietnam.