THE ADMINISTRATORS’ OPINIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AUTONOMY IN PUBLIC SPECIALIZED UNIVERSITIES IN HANOI

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to study university administrators’ opinions on the implementation of three aspects of autonomy (Academic, Personnel and Financial affairs) at public specialized universities in Hanoi. Seven universities were selected representative of the seven specialized fields of training in Vietnamese higher education: Technology; Basic Sciences; Agriculture- Forestry- Fishing; Economics-Law; Medicine-Pharmacy-Physical Education; Culture-Art and Pedagogy-Language. The research methods used in this study were in-depth interviews, documentary review and discussion. Qualitative content analysis with induction and deduction was used to interpret and summarize all collected data. The findings indicated that, within the legal frame, the public specialized universities in Hanoi under the Ministry of Education and Training management were in the process of being provided with the certain autonomy in operating their affairs. The common key obstacles, which the universities have coped with, were that they had to ask for approval about the number of student admissions and about making irregular expenditures; they had to follow the core curriculum. For the universities under the control of other ministries, the findings showed that their autonomy was limited due to the mechanisms of the in-charge ministry. The research recommendations are that the universities should be provided with more autonomy and strengthened with more accountability, i.e. the universities should have the right to determine the number of students, the curriculum and spending irregular expenditures. The role of state management agents should be clearly specified. The government should set up quality assurance and quality recognition accreditation in the higher education system. Moreover, welfare policies for higher education should be implemented more effectively to support students from disadvantaged groups in pursuit of their academic goals.

KEYWORDS: ADMINISTRATOR/ OPINION/ IMPLEMENTATION/ AUTONOMY/ PUBLIC/ SPECIALIZED UNIVERSITY/ HANOI

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