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Higher education and the transformation of society: lessons from Uganda

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Abstract:

The role of Higher Education (HE) in Societal Transformation (ST) has of recent become a global topical discussion for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and for society in general. Whereas some scholars perceive HEIs as positioned primarily for the production of knowledge and not for ST, others contend that HEIs have a significant role to play. It is their view that if HEIs remain indifferent to societal challenges, they risk becoming obsolete. Thus, to remain relevant, HEIs, with their research-based solutions, can use the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to address current challenges confronting society today. However, scholars of this view maintain that HEIs must first address the issue of the quality of their programmes to address the component of ST. Thus, efforts must be directed to the re-designation of all programmes and policy makers who underate HEIs contribution towards Uganda's ST. However, in spite of these limitations, Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) is given as a case study to demonstrate that it's possible to contribute to the transformation of Uganda using quality programmes and SDGs.

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