

# World-Class Private Higher Education System: Adopting a Global Approach to National Private Higher Education Policies

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## **Abstract**

The intersection of globalization and privatization has created an unusual but exciting opportunity for the private higher education sector. College education plays a critical role in a knowledge economy. Even in the developing economies, college education continues to assume an increasingly central role in advancing national agenda. Globalization—the disappearing of state barriers to access and resources redistribution—creates new opportunities for students seeking college education across national borders. Consequently, there has been an unprecedented growth in demand for college education. With the government’s inability to absorb this growth, privatization becomes a creative solution to a critical and urgent need.

In response to this need, we have had an unprecedented growth in the number of private colleges and universities worldwide, especially in the past two to three decades. However, the introduction and expansion of private institutions raise some serious questions regarding government roles and national higher education policies. While private higher education institutions contribute immensely to their society, many of them operate within less than conducive national higher education systems that stifle growth and constrain advancement.

The purpose of this paper is to explore environmental conduciveness for private higher education institutions. What would a world-class private higher education system look like and what could be done to encourage national leaders to reform and restructure their national education systems so as to advance the private higher education agenda? In response to this question, we examine the growing importance of college education, the increasing demand for this level of education, and the growth of privatization. The second part of the paper addresses environmental factors that could help or hinder private higher education growth and concludes with global responses and recommendations.