A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON SOCIO CULTURAL ADAPTATION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS ON INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN THAILAND

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was threefold. First, to determine if different groups of students are more severely affected than others by sociocultural adaptation and if so why? Second, to investigate and identify what sociocultural adaptation problems students may have. Third, to ascertain how we can accommodate those students in order to minimize their difficulties and thus maximize their study potential so that in the future, Thailand will become the number one destination for overseas students to come and study.

The population of the study was the entire international student body (both Asian and Western) of Raffles Design Institute, Silom Road, Bangkok. Questionnaires were used as a research tool to gather data. Western students were found to have much fewer adaptation problems than one would suspect but there are however, areas in which we can improve conditions in order to assist foreign students to be more successful in their studies and thus promote Thailand as a Higher Education destination for future students.

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