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Orginal Article

Evaluation and Ranking of the Level of Development of University in the Provinces of Iran with TOPSIS Method

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Abstract

This study evaluates and ranks the 31 provinces of Iran based on academic indicators for the 2019-2020 academic year, utilizing the TOPSIS method. The indicators encompass faculty members (categorized as Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, and Instructor), visiting professors, as well as students and graduates at the PhD, Master's, and Bachelor's levels. The significance of this research lies in its potential to assist policymakers in addressing regional disparities by providing a clearer and more precise perspective. The research findings, however, reveal an imbalanced regional distribution of academic development, which necessitates a reassessment of regional policies to achieve the objectives of balanced regional development. The overall assessment of the university status in Iranian provinces indicates that two provinces, Tehran and Alborz, are classified as "developed," while the remaining 29 provinces are considered "developing." Notably, no province was categorized as "underdeveloped." Furthermore, the results show that the academic development level of 26 provinces falls below the national average, a situation that requires considerable attention. This finding is indicative of the severe imbalanced development among the country's provinces in the academic sector.

Keywords: Universities, Topsis, Entropy, Provinces of Iran.

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

University is a center of specialized education and a turning point in the entry of students into the labor markets and the development of various student skills. University in each country is one of the important factors in the formation of their economic, social and cultural development policies, so the university system plays an important role in the development of countries with its outcomes and impacts. In fact, educational activities in any country can be called an intergenerational investment the main goal of these investments is human development and the growth of people's awareness and abilities.

The importance of this research in the ranking of universities helps politicians to address regional discrimination from this perspective with an open and more accurate view. Research results but unfortunately, it tells of an unbalanced regional distribution in academic development, which requires a review of regional policies in line with the goals of regional balanced development.

Method

The aim of this study is to examine the ranking of the provinces of Iran from the perspective of academic indicators including university teachers including faculty members with the degree of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor and non-faculty teachers, students and graduates of doctoral, master's and Bachelor's degrees using academic indicators including academic indicators with the topsis method for the academic year 2019 in 31 provinces of Iran.

Results

The results of the concentration level measurement technique in the provinces of the country show that the provinces of Tehran, Sistan and Balochistan, South Khorasan had the highest concentration rate at the national level respectively, and the provinces of North Khorasan, Fars and larestan, Zanzibar had the lowest concentration rate at the national level respectively. The results of the distribution coefficient in the provinces of the country show that the provinces of Tehran, Alborz, Gilan had the highest density in the country respectively, and the provinces of South Khorasan, Sistan and Balochistan, Samnan had the lowest density in the country respectively. The results of the concentration level measurement technique

showed that university trainees were dispersed unbalanced among the regions .

The student situation survey shows that the provinces of Tehran, Khorasan Rezavi, Isfahan had the highest share, respectively, and the provinces of North Khorasan, Elam, kagielvi and boyrakhmed had the lowest share in the country. The results of the distribution coefficient also show that the provinces of Tehran, Alborz, Gilan have the highest density among the provinces of the country, respectively, and the provinces of South Khorasan, Sistan and Balochistan, Kerman have the lowest density among the provinces of the country, respectively .

The study of the status of graduates also shows that the provinces of Tehran, Khorasan Rezavi, Isfahan had the highest share, respectively, and the provinces of Elam, North Khorasan, kagielvi and boyrakhmed had the lowest share in the country, respectively. The results of the concentration level measurement technique in the provinces of the country show that the provinces of Tehran, Sistan and Balochistan, South Khorasan had the highest concentration rate at the national level, respectively, and the provinces of kagielviya and boyrakhmed, central, Isfahan and Zanzibar had the lowest concentration rate at the national level, respectively.

Discussion

The overall result of the review of the status of university in the provinces of Iran also indicates that the number of 2 provinces of Tehran and Alborz in the advanced provinces and 29 other provinces have been considered as developing provinces, and there have been no underdeveloped provinces that are visible. The results also show that the development of 26 provinces in the field of universities was below the average, which should be given a lot of attention and on the other hand, it indicated the unbalanced development of the provinces of the country in the field of universities.

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