

Current Issues and Themes in Education

A Handbook for Practitioners

**Edited By:
Suhailah Hussien**



IIUM PRESS
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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IIUM Press

Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Suhailah Hussien
Current Issues And Themes in Education: A Handbook For Practitioners
Suhailah Hussien
Include Index
ISBN 978-967-418-125-3

ISBN 978-967-418-125-3

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia - MAPIM
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by:
IIUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.
No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3,
Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves,
Batu Caves Centre Point,
68100 Batu Caves,
Selangor Darul Ehsan

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ENHANCING LEARNING AT THE SLEU (IIUM)

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INTRODUCTION

Tertiary education has gained a central position in the Malaysian educational scenario. At present there are 17 government-funded higher institutions in the country, comprising 11 public universities and 6 college universities. In addition, there are 539 private institutions of higher learning. In the academic year 2002-2003, there were 306,575 students enrolled in all 17 public institutions of higher learning (Ministry of Education Malaysia). When this number is combined with enrolments in the private institutions, the statistics indicate that in the year 2003, 29% of the population between the age of 17 and 23 years old was enrolled in public and private institutions of higher learning (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia).

The September 11 bombing of the New York World Trade Centre in 2001, saw some changes in the pattern of students seeking education in Malaysia. In particular, there was an increase in the registration of international students from the Middle East and Asian countries at higher institutions of learning in Malaysia. There are 39,577 foreign students in Malaysia