STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL WORKFORCE

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Introduction

Education is an important aspect of life that should be emphasised by the government and private sectors as well as the non-governmental organisations. Successful students in primary and secondary schools may have the opportunity to further their studies in higher learning institutions. This opportunity is important because higher education serves as a basic foundation for producing future intellectuals, scholars and professionals who can nurture the quality of holistic excellence throughout every aspect of human life and fulfil the country’s mission and vision.

At these education institutions, students are encouraged to seek and practise their knowledge and skills, to contribute their innovative ideas and to be able to accept and criticise the diversity of conflicting views. These institutions become platforms for moulding exemplary individuals as future leaders with the aim of leading and developing the country. While pursuing their studies, they are encouraged to be involved in extracurricular activities. These are useful in terms of providing and enhancing future skills in communication, leadership, information communication technology and team building, which will give them a competitive edge in the workforce.

Due to the need in providing the best human resources for Malaysia’s future workforce, this chapter discusses the issue of the increasing number of female as compared to male students in higher learning institutions and the implications for the workforce.