

Review

on the thematic analysis

‘Some Aspects of Ethics and Academic Integrity in Higher Education Institutions in Kazakhstan: Problems and Prospects’, edited by G.I. Muratova and Sh.M. Kalanova, Astana, 2024

The thematic analysis on ‘Some aspects of ethics and academic integrity in higher education institutions in Kazakhstan: challenges and prospects’ was prepared by the Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (IQAA). The relevance of the analysis stems from the importance of regulatory and institutional measures to strengthen a culture of quality within the higher education system. The analysis aims to assess the ethical and legal aspects of ensuring the quality of education in higher education institutions, to identify strengths and problem areas, and to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the relevant mechanisms.

The methodology of the thematic analysis is based on an examination of a set of criteria, including corporate governance mechanisms in higher education institutions, the existence and accessibility of internal regulatory legal acts governing academic integrity in educational organisations, as well as an analysis of the evidence base formed on the basis of data from employers and students regarding educational quality assurance processes.

The strengths of the analysis include a comprehensive research approach, the use of comparative analysis, and the formulation of practice-oriented recommendations. The analysis examined the corporate governance models and practices of 14 higher education institutions. It was found that all the institutions under consideration have, to varying degrees, established a system of internal regulatory documents governing issues of ethics and academic integrity. At the same time, the study notes the existence of various institutional mechanisms for ensuring academic integrity and ethics, including ethics committees, compliance departments, management blogs, feedback channels (hotlines and suggestion boxes), as well as systems for checking written work for plagiarism (anti-plagiarism software). The participation of higher education institutions in the Academic Integrity League is noted separately.

Based on an analysis of external audit reports, the study demonstrates that a systematic organisation of educational activities (courses, seminars, training sessions, webinars) on academic integrity and ethics, aimed at familiarising participants with the current standards, rules and procedures governing this area.

The analysis of external audit reports has shown that higher education institutions ensure systematic monitoring of the quality of educational programmes, learning outcomes and the level of satisfaction among key stakeholders (students, lecturers and employers), which is aimed at

enhance the effectiveness of the internal quality assurance system for education.

The concluding provisions of the analysis highlight the strengths in the development of ethical aspects of quality assurance in higher education in Kazakhstan, and set out relevant recommendations.

Overall, the thematic analysis has been carried out to a high standard, characterised by a logical and coherent presentation, well-founded conclusions and the practical significance of the results obtained. The conclusions and recommendations presented are of practical value and can be utilised in the further improvement of the quality assurance system and the regulatory framework governing the activities of educational organisations.

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