

Financial Sustainability in the Implementation of RA 10931 “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act Of 2017” among LUCS in CALABARZON

Maria Charmaine V. Lagustan

<http://orcid.org./:0009-0002-3409-0801>

mariacharmaine1@gmail.com

Dalubhasaan ng Lungsod ng Lucena

Brgy. Isabang, Lucena City, Quezon, Philippines

Abstract

The Free Higher Education (FHE) subsidy for public tertiary institutions as embodied in RA 10931 is assured by the national government. The study was conducted to determine the financial sustainability in the implementation of RA 10931 or Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (UAQTEA) of 2017 aiming to ensure continuous and sustainable operations and delivery of school services among public HEIs should there be the discontinuance of the enforcement of the law after five (5) years of its initial implementation. This is in anticipation of deficiencies in the national budget due to the pandemic situation in the country. Specifically, the study sought to determine the extent of implementation of RA 10931 in LUCs in CALABARZON; discuss the benefits of the implementation of RA 10931; find out the issues involved in the implementation of RA 10931; ascertain the financial sustainability of LUCs in the implementation of RA 10931; and develop a continuity plan for the implementation of RA 10931 that will ensure continuous operations of LUCs. Participants of the study were the School Heads or Administrators as well as UniFAST Focal persons from seven LUCs in CALABARZON. This research study is generally qualitative using a phenomenological approach. Research instruments used in this study include the questionnaire and interview guide questions. The study found that the seven LUCs from CALABARZON were fully covered by the implementation of RA 10931 in 2018. There were problems encountered by LUCs in the initial implementation of the free tuition law but LUCs agreed the continuous implementation of the law would ensure long-term financial sustainability and stability of the school operations. However, should there be discontinuance of the FHE subsidy or the implementation of the law, LUCs agreed that the LGU must be prepared to provide for the full operational expenses of their respective local colleges.

Keywords: Education, Implementation of RA 10931, Qualitative Research, Philippines