

45. Some people believe that a college or university education should be available to all students. Others believe that higher education should be available only to good students. Discuss these views. Which view do you agree with? Explain why.

Every issue always has many different perspectives because each person has a different background and education that relatively affects his/her opinion. Some people believe that a college or university education should be available to all students, while others believe that higher education should be available only to good students.

People who believe that a university education should be available to all students have a point of view that everybody is equal. Equality implies that even students, who are disabled or have low socio-economic status, should have access to higher education. In the view of higher education for all, students who have some kind of disadvantage should not be denied access to higher education. They should not be denied the right of higher education. For example, Richard Rodriguez was a disadvantaged student who achieved great success through his higher education experience. This is evidence that higher education for all has positive benefits for society.

People who believe that higher education should be available only to good students hold a point of view that good students can achieve better. According to this assumption, good students are advantaged students (i.e. the opposite of disadvantaged students). So the logic goes like this, if disadvantaged students do not perform well in higher education, the advantaged students will perform well in higher education. This logic assumes that those advantaged students will have academic success through higher education as compared with disadvantaged students. Of course, this assumption, by itself, has no basis in fact.

Personally, I believe that higher education should be available to all students. It does not matter what advantages or disadvantages they have. Everybody is motivated to achieve something. Disadvantages and advantages are temporal. That is, they only have short-term effects. People have times of struggle as well as periods of relative ease. I, for example, have struggled with higher education for ten years because of family and work. But now times are easier. I have managed to go back to school, and I will achieve my goal of becoming a dentist through higher education.

In conclusion, the criteria for access to higher education should not be the advantaged or disadvantaged status of a person. The only restriction should be -- does the person want a higher education. For those who want, it should be accessible, and for those who don't want, it is their own restriction and not anybody else's.