Do UNEB results predict competencies required to excel academically in law school?

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Abstract

Introduction of law school admission examinations has increased the debate regarding the relevance of prior studies to enrollees on the Bachelor of Laws. The key issues of contentious are whether prior studies: (i) reliably predict academic achievement of enrollees; (ii) demonstrate competencies required for admission to law school. We use administrative records of law students at Makerere University - over a four-year stipulated period of bachelor's studies - to investigate these issues further. A panel data of 2,485 records enables us to explore time variant and invariant factors in the course of bachelor's studies. The analysis was made by enrollees characteristics, a pooled index of achievement adopted on admission to law school and subjects done at A-Level of secondary education. In the results, about 81% of differentials in academic achievement was due to variation across students. In addition to confirming the attainment in prior studies as a contributing factor to the variations, our findings show that competence in the subjects namely, Literature, History and Divinity predicts success in law school. Certainly, the achievement in the subjects demonstrates competencies required to excel academically in law school.