

Diplopia: The Lived Experience of Twins in a Higher Education Institution

Author: Dr. Courtney Garrick
University of Technology

Twins constitute one of the various human multiple birth phenomena. It occurs when two babies are born from a single pregnancy. Twin birth accounts for more than 90% of multiple births, and occurs at a birth rate of 3.11%. The various classifications of twins indicated that there are several twins formations. Also, the timing differences in twin births have presented several unique challenges. Additionally, there have been various issues associated with the educational experience of twins, particularly at the primary and secondary levels. Some educational jurisdictions have specific policies regarding the admission and enrolment of twins. Similar issues exist in higher education institutions. The purpose of this study is to explore the occurrence of twins studying at an higher education institution, highlighting their experiences in the teaching and learning environment, as well as in the twins' social interaction on campus. The insights to be gained from this study will be helpful in the formulation of a policy position on the admission and enrolment of twins, as well as in the nature and level of student services that are afforded twins in the higher education institution. The study follows a mixed method design. Twins from various faculties have been identified as active participants, using a criterion sampling approach. Triangulated data collection methods have been employed in the study. The findings outline the twins' lived experiences in the teaching and learning environment, as well as their mindset and response to the social environment at the higher education institution. A policy position regarding the admission and enrolment of twins in the higher education institution has been recommended. Also, an arrangement for the social interaction of twins has been proposed.