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ABSTRACT
The purpose of the study was to investigate the factors which motivate adult learners to enroll in the evening classes in Institut de Byumba. For the purpose some objectives developed so as to guide the study. They include the following: to investigate the reasons that make adult learners go back to school for further education; to analyze the perceptions of adult learners on the evening program; to explore problems on the evening program students encounter as they learn; to examine the strategies that can improve the adult evening learning program. To achieve the above objectives, quantitative method and the qualitative methods of research were used. A sample size of 70-respondents (65 part time students) was selected from the total population of 497 persons. The findings of the study include that hunger for new knowledge and techniques to perform jobs, getting a degree, upgrading a carrier, being more competitive on the modern labour market and good standards of living are some motivating factors for higher education. Limited time and finance, language of instruction, lack of access to libraries and mean of transport were identified as major problems where as increasing on text book ratios, bilingual lecturers and bank credit were shown as possible strategies. In conclusion the world today requires men and women to be more competent. So, adult learners are motivated to attend higher education due to values it offers. These values are directed towards forging a new profile of citizens and enhancing a country’s image. The major recommendations of this study are the creation of access to loans for school fees and the guarantee of all citizens’ access to learning activities at any stage of life; additional attention needs to be paid to the quality and relevance of learning materials as new groups of learners are recruited. Care has to be taken, the, to ensure that the benefits of learning are not limited to the full time learners at the expense of large numbers of part time students, and since this study covered IPB evening students, there should be a study that covers evening students of other higher institution of learning or universities throughout the country.