

Issues and Challenges in Higher Education

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Abstract

Economic success of a nation is reflected by its educational system. Education has the ability to boost the strength of nation. An educated nation tries to help the individuals of the nation to touch the heights of the skies. India is the third largest country in terms of higher education next to China. Improvement in the higher education system has taken place since independence and is developing in the sphere of higher education. Challenges and issues in higher education are quite evident, but the opportunities to overcome the issues needs greater attention in the higher education system. There is an urgent need of scientific research which will help how people learn and to make them skillful and educated, which in turn help to uplift the economic system of the country. Furthermore, it will also help to transfer the skilled persons from one country to another which in turn will help the country to move from the developing stage to the developed one. Moreover, the current paper examines to highlight the issues and challenges in higher educational institutions.

Keywords: *Challenges, Issues, Education, Opportunities*

INTRODUCTION

Higher education system of India is regarded as the world's third largest next to China and United States. Approximately 11% of Indian youth receive higher education as compared to china. In India, the agency which looks the standards higher is the University Grants Commission which advises the government from time to time to enforce and coordinate between the Centre and state and implement the rules and regulations in the higher education system. Indian has the advantage of English as a primary language unlike China. Colleges and Universities which are the main organs which render its service in the higher system of education. In 2011, 227 recognized universities in which 20 are Central Universities, 11 are open universities, and 109 are deemed universities and the rest are state Universities. In certain universities colleges are affiliated with where under graduate courses are taught. However, (JNU) Jawaharlal

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University is a significant exception to this regulation. According to the 2011 report which has been published by the Department of Higher Education which mentions that 16,885 colleges which includes 1800 exclusive women's colleges. In these colleges where 4.57 lakh teachers and 99.54 lakh students receive Higher Education in these institutions. Moreover, there are various technical and professional colleges in India which play a significant role in the education system. Open and Distance learning (ODL) is also a character of the Indian higher education system.

Reputed institutions of India like IITS (Indian Institutes of technology) and IIM (Indian Institute of management) have been internationally admired for their standard of education. Nearly 8000 students enroll in the institutions which help in the contribution of economic growth of the country both in private and public sectors of India. However, still we have not achieved the good reputation globally higher education as per the grading of NIRF no India University falls in 100 serials. India failed to produce universities like Cambridge and Harvard. East Asia Universities are marked among the 100 universities in which Hong Kong has marked with three numbers 24, 35, and 46. Similarly, two Singapore Universities have placed at 30 and 73. Moreover South Korean. Furthermore, Tsinghua University and Peking University of China are ranked at 49 and 52, respectively.

India which is home to various Higher Education institutions which have been founded with the sole aim to make money in an easy way. In India, there is a mushroom growth of private institutions which run courses without affiliation. Learners fall pray in these institutions. It has been considered that the destiny of a nation is shaped in the classrooms, but it is an irony that the classrooms failed to shape the destiny of the nation. Survey was conducted by the Shanghai University which published its report that no Indian University falls in the world's top 300 Universities. The reports mention that China has six universities among the top 300. It has rightly said that knowledge is power, which empowers the individual to take better decisions in life and to make the better way for the whole society.

So far the number of students in higher education is concerned, India has less number of students as compared to China. In the 11th five year plan, which envisages that GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) to increase the 15% population of higher education between the age group of 18-24 years by 2011-12. For this, it requires to increase the number of educational institutions and teachers in order to impart education for this rise in the population of learners. If this we fail to achieve the target of GER laid down by the government, it will hamper to achieve the target.

Former president of India, Pratibha Patil, told that India needs to increase the enrolment ratio to 30 % by the year 2020, which indicated that increase from 14 to 40 million. It was announced at the sixth convocation of the University of Mizoram, which was held on 24 September, 2010. She further added in the speech that it's the responsibility of the present and old universities to achieve the target.

From the global perspective view is concerned India's system of higher education quality doesn't match. There is an urgent need to look into the matter of quality education. There was time when the quality of education was assessed by the faculty with degrees and experiences or size of the legacy.

Academicians, critical appraisals assumed by the governmental committees have underlined the predicament confronting the system: ' unemployment rate of educated youth; lack in motivation of the students; unrest and increasing indiscipline of the campuses; degradation of standards, frequent fall of administration etc. are the current issues. On the other hand, politicians and policy makers have stressed on the change in the system of education.

World class institutions in India are very rare, the colleges and Universities, have poor facilities in libraries, laboratories, classrooms, and lack in information technology which hampers to provide quality education.

Emerging Issues

So far as the role of higher education is concerned with the evolving situation of knowledge, economy is very essential and many-sided for any country in general and India in particular. Many problems faced by higher education are: Lower level of teaching, economic difficulties, Techno-based learning, more concentration on theory rather than practical and moral values.

1. Lower level of teaching: Poor quality teaching, traditional teaching methods adopted by the teachers, and lack of accountability, separation of research, and teaching are the visible issues which quite evident in the institutions and universities of higher education system.
2. Economic difficulties have witnessed that a large portion of the students belong to poor families which cannot accommodate their basic necessities of life, because the rising cost of the education system compelled them to leave the education. Students from the poor family find part time jobs to pay the rising fee, this creates a dividing section among the students which divides the attention of students in

terms of jobs and university carriers. This is one of the factors responsible which pays the way to fall prey to frustration.

3. Low expenditure on Higher Education is another emerging issue which is not satisfactory.
4. Indian Universities show poor performance in research and development.
5. The aspiration level of students towards technology in this modern world cannot be underestimated, because techno-based learning demands to remain in touch with the technology. New generation of learners is emerging as on the issues in higher education.
6. Shortage of teachers and infrastructure in higher education needs greater attention.
7. Effective governance is another issue which we face in the HE system which needs to be innovated to face the new challenges and to tackle with the problems amicably
8. Moral values are degrading day-by day because of the rapid growth in and technology and in industrialization. The cause of younger generation dissatisfaction is the crumbling of moral values.

Emerging challenges

Education Commission, 1964-66 rightly pointed out, saying, 'The destiny of India is being shaped in her classrooms.' No doubt classrooms prepare the future, citizens rear them, educate and help them to face challenging situations. The expansion of higher in the last six years has marked a sign on the higher education. The hall mark on the entire higher education have failed which have deteriorate the standards of higher education system (UGC & Higher Education system in India, by Sharda Mishra) India's higher education system which is considered as the second largest in the world, which fulfill the needs of the millions of students community from different sections of the society. Student community can play a better role in creating the healthy academic atmosphere. There are a few challenges which have emerged in the last few decades which are as under: deteriorate

Economic difficulties

It is one of the most drastic changes which the higher education system has witnessed because learners come with different backgrounds and the increasing rise in higher education pushes them to the back corner. Near about 75% total community facing financial problems.

Heterogeneous education system: Geographical condition, rich- poor, rural-urban also poses a challenge to higher education. In India, there are some universities, colleges, and

technical universities which impart quality education while some institutions have degraded the standard of higher education.

Globalized economy: we cannot deny the fact that HE prepares to meet the challenges we faced today, but also helps to run parallel with the standards of the world because globalization has shrunked the world into a village and the things are changing rapidly and HE plays a significant role to adjust in the globalized economy.

CONCLUSION

In concluding words, higher education plays an important role in the transformation of the society. Due to the rapid change in science and technology which helped to emerge new institutions. New institutions have proved fruitful for the country like IIT which has established a few decades ago which renders its service in the quality of higher education compared to old institutions.

To conclude, higher education is the backbone of the country in the modern society, and we cannot survive without higher education. Moreover, the government should spend sufficient funds in the higher education for the significant reforms. Furthermore, government should formulate the policies which will be subservient for the next generation and the responsibility of the statutory bodies like UGC, AICTE, NAAC and NCTE, etc., to implement in Universities and colleges with letter and spirit which will help to achieve the goals for the development of the country because Indian economy is facing a lot of challenges which needs to solve with the effective policies and with better implementation.

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