

System of higher education in India: Issues, challenges and suggestions

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Abstract

A country develops according to the level of its education. The education system of a country should be mould (modified) in accordance to the needs of people, in accordance to the time with the consideration of the changing scenario of the world. It is the only force which can mend and reconcile our social, economic, cultural, moral spiritual issues, which the humanity is facing. The economy of our country need further impetus to go on but requires efficient and well educated people to drive it. Though there are many people around who are in vogue for their capacities and skills but we need much more. We need India to become a hub of education and desire it to become the huge partner of economy of the globe; it is possible only if we will effort to strengthen the education system of our country especially our higher education system with special reference to towards research departments. The paper attempts to find out the steps taken by government for the rise in the level of education. And the issues and challenges with the requirement of plans through which the resolutions can be brought. The paper will also measure the role of students, stakeholders, industries, educational institutions, parents and the government in particular.

Keywords: development, efficient teachers, higher education, issues, rise

1. Introduction

Higher education is of the pivotal importance for the increment in human development especially for developing country like India. Since 1947, there has been the expansion extraordinary experience in higher education in India. India has gifted many scientists, teachers, doctors, engineers and managers of huge demand all over the world. India lies among the top ten countries regarding technological and industrial capacity as well, due to the substantial contribution of man power and tools bestowed by higher education particularly the technical education. As we know, our country which has already entered into the epoch of knowledge explosion and successfully proved its howling voltage by its performance in nuclear and space arenas. It will be annunciated by internets, satellites, space craft and other branches of scientific wonders, in the coming decades. It is the higher education which brings the bacon of opportunities to the people to reflect on the critical moral, cultural, economic, spiritual issues. It offers pedagogical knowledge and skilled peoples for the nation-wide development. India will acquire the largest set of young people in next few decades. But while the setup of Indian higher education is not up to the mark, the increasing youth population will get frustrated with lack of employability. So India needs to set their education system accordingly. Contrarily, if we fail to provide qualitative education and employment, it will turn disastrous for Indian economy: "The time is very opportune for India to make its transition to the knowledge economy – an economy that creates, disseminates, and uses knowledge to enhance its growth and development" (Dahlman and Utz 2005). To substantialize the issue we need to improve more our educational system. The education commission 1964-66 described the role of education in social and economic transformation through a statement-the density of a nation is shaped in its class rooms. Education creates

human capital which is the core of economic progress and assumes that the externalities generated by human capital are the source of self-sustaining economic process.

2. Objectives

1. To examine the current scenario of Higher education system in India.
2. To detect the issues higher education in India.
3. To expose the emerging challenges of higher education in India.
4. To put forth the suggestions to improve the quality of higher education in India.

3. A Panorama of Higher Education Scenario in India

There has been a tremendous growth of higher education since independence. So many universities as well as colleges have grown up from 25 to 799 and 700 to 39071 respectively from 1950 to 2016. By the number of teachers and students has been increased significantly. The growth of students' enrollment is higher than the growth of number of teachers over a period of time. As we know that the number of universities have been increased, with this the enrollment has also increased, still the ratio of difference remains to almost constant. To mitigate the issue the administration must look over it broadly. We need more universities to for the purpose to expand the education to all the corners of nation. Human development of a nation strongly based upon the higher education system of the nation. It pinpoints also the necessities of the classes, which are yet bereft of welfare. So the higher education is the only tool through which all the different classes get the peaceful unification alongside their development and prosperity throughout their every aspect whether social, political, religious and individualistic (Joshi, 2006) [4]. Hence, it is mandatory to mention that if a country needs to internationalize

their contribution to the economy, literature, science and technology. It's only possible due to the sound and systematic higher education system. Whatever the drawbacks are there

must be not only to rectify but also to employ the overcome for the reconciliation of the system.

Table 1: Higher Education Statistics at a Glance

India		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Number of Universities		642	667	723	760	799
Number of Colleges		34,852	35,525	36,634	38,498	39,071
Number of Stand Alone Institutions		11,157	11,565	11,664	12,276	11,923
Enrolment in Higher Education	Male	161,73,473	166,17,294	174,95,394	184,88,619	185,94,723
	Female	130,10,858	135,35,123	148,40,840	157,23,018	159,90,058
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	Male	22.1	22.7	23.9	25.3	25.4
	Female	19.4	20.1	22	23.2	23.5

Source: All India Survey on Higher Education (web)

4. Issues of Higher Education

Although Indian higher education system has been successful in uplifting the system but that is not enough. In fact, India is among the largest populated countries so the higher education system needs to be modified time after time and its every process has to be up to date and up to the mark.

- **Minimum Number of Central Universities:** India a vast country with huge density of population requires more universities which are funded by central government as we know. Central universities provide almost every facility to a student to produce scholars, doctors, engineers, astronauts etc. So it is of no doubt that the central universities provide the education which is good quality. That means the more central universities we have the qualitative our education will be. The administration needs to keep a broad monitor upon such issue. The more central universities will occupy more students which will prove to be the secret to enlist the country among the developed countries of the world.
- **Old Methods of Teaching are yet Prevalent:** We are in 21st century, a century of science and information technology (IT) and almost all the universities of our country are yet running with the traditional and conventional methods of teaching: "Our regulation is faulty, because it contemplates very little place for diversity of experiments" (The Indian Express, 2005) [3]. We must make the use of technology very often by which the students especially the research fellows will gain pace to conduct their research with speedy results. Through the use of technology there the less chances of failure. So the adoption of scientific method to arise the higher education system is obvious.
- **Indecent Facilities and Infrastructure:** Most of the universities in India are not yet well infrastructured and also the buildings are ruined. Big thing is that they are yet bereft of Internet access. Modern time is fully based upon the Internet access, such a service must be every time available free of cost to every student. Though the Internet service the students will acquire any information even in nanoseconds. This will save the time and will uplift their genius to build a great nation of which they belong to.
- **Lack of Finance in Higher Education:** The State universities often seem so poor in comparison to central universities. The State universities usually fell short of finance to take charge to the projects for students, and this dwindle their quality of research. The government must provide them the luminous funds to strengthen their research fields. A long side this, the state universities must

be provided the laboratories and libraries with up to date staff and equipment as well by which the conduction of research will run smooth, with maximum success. This is the success of nation and universities as well.

5. Challenges of Higher Education System

The Indian Higher Education System is third largest education system in the world, next to China and the United States which fulfils the educational requirements of millions of students, is growing rapidly after independence even though it is hard to meet the complete needs of all the students from all the section of society (Agarwal, 2006) [1]. India is a multi-religious country, though it is harder to handle the requirement of vast population. But in the last few decades our administration have been taking the sharp focus upon the progression and improvement in the higher education system but still there is a lot to do. Many challenges are yet to deal with; the challenges under spotlight are as under:

- **Variability in Higher Education System:** The Education system has unexpected variation in it, which are geographical, rural and economical. The privatization is also responsible to a great extent because sometimes their curriculum varies from the government institutions or universities. By this a gap generated in between two sectors. If the internal affairs and policies of both the sector would have been homogeneous the results would have been more fruitful.
- **International Coordination:** Almost all the universities of India are yet running with the traditional ways especially in research. It is times need that the universities must be linked to international universities which will provide more exposure to the students and their research will get globalized. This will contribute not only to a particular country but the entire world.
- **Organization of Cross Cultural Programmes:** The higher education system of our country has to conduct cultural programmes on the international platform, by which the cultures of the world will meet each other to get explored. For example, *Yoga*, the product of Indian culture. This got transported to every country and proved to be fruitful too. There are yet so many treasures in our rich culture which needs to get explored which can be possible only through conducting the international cross cultural programmes via Indian higher education system.
- **Intervention of Politic in Indian Higher Education System:** The Higher Education Departments are, very much been politicized, which has infused the flaws in the

pace of progression of our education system. The recruitment of professors, lecturers is driven with the politicized procedures, which barriers the way of quality education. Some aided colleges are owned by the politicians and their hegemony harms the norms of education system within.

6. Suggestions to Improve and Upgrade the Higher Education System

The administration must take so many things in consideration while framing the departmental set ups, internal as well as external policies. The entire system of education must regard the student as the pivot of all the processes. The paper efforts to point out some suggestions below; which are of immediate need.

- **Student must be the Centre:** All the policies whenever framed must not be book-centered rather they must be student centered. Because the student is representative not only of his institution (university), he represents the nation. If his education must be sound becomes the reason for the regard of nation. The students must be full of availabilities every time especially those students which are conducting their research in their respective fields. Any framework of administration must be fruitful for the students throughout all the ways. This will protect them from the frustrations and varies regarding the requirements regarding their research. And all the researches will never vapid.
- **World-wide Linkage:** All the universities of the world must be in direct contact and coordination with each other, this is only way through which the students all over the globe can meet face to face to achieve new things and updates of the time. Such a familiarity will help them in sharpening their minds which is good for entire humanity.
- **Maximum use of Technology:** Old and out-dated methods of education in higher education must be replaced by techno-methods. The libraries alongside printed books must be provided the fast internet service, 24x7; the service must be free of cost to all the students. The traditional ways though were good somehow but it can never be denied that they were the time consuming ways. This is 21st Century and every process needs progression with speed means the maximum in minimum time. So if our students will be fully familiar to operate the technology it will accelerate the development processes all over India.
- **Serious Focus upon Female Education:** All the scriptures of the all the religions have never ever denied the education of the women folks, rather they have deeply stressed upon it, a girl is not singularly a girl, she is a mother of foster the whole family. The family will progress according to the mental progression or mind set of a mother. So a mother needs to be highly educated to conduct the family affairs. The importance of female can be conceived through the words of Napoleon Bonaparte as he states, "Give me an educated mother, I shall promise you the birth of a civilized, educated nation".

7. Conclusion

The 21st century in which there is educational explosion and the competitive range is at its apex, so ever student of today needs to be updated to prove himself in the international arena of education. Our higher education system must be alert to infuse the students with tremendous knowledge about their

discourses for the purpose to become beneficial for the development of him and the nation as well. The paper has taken efforts to figure out the do's and do not's for reconciling the higher education system in a positive way. And the main suggestions have been highlighted to employ, for the sake of national development. The primal stress has been taken upon the scientific tools and techniques to surmount the system which is somehow yet so shabby in outlook. Women education and empowerment has been put in the spotlight without which no nation will develop. Economic assistance to the students has also been taken in consideration to keep the higher education students secure from their commercial worries.

8. References

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