
A REVIEW ON THE HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

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Abstract

The world has recognized that their education systems specifically influence the economic performance of the nations. The Strength of a Nation is education. Inevitably, a developing country is an educated nation. Next to the United States and China, India's higher education system is the world's third biggest. India, as a developing country, has been advancing controversially in the field of education since independence. While India's higher education system has faced many challenges, it also has many opportunities to address these challenges and to make the higher education system even better. There is a need for greater openness and accountability, for the role of colleges and universities in the new millennium, and for ongoing scientific studies on how people continue to learn. India needs well-qualified and highly trained individuals who are able to move our economy forward. Therefore, India provides highly qualified individuals to other nations; it is very convenient for India to move our country from a developing nation to a developed nation. The current research aims to highlight the obstacles and to highlight the opportunities in India's higher education system.

Keywords: *Education, Opportunities, Challenges, Colleges, Universities*

I. INTRODUCTION

India's higher education system, next to China and the United States, is the third highest in terms of students worldwide. India will be one of the main hubs for education in the future. The Higher Education sector of India has witnessed after independence, the number of universities/university-level institutions & colleges has increased considerably[1]. The 'Right to Education Act,' which provides for compulsory and free education for all children between the ages of 6-14 years, has contributed to a revolution in the country's education system with statistics showing a staggering enrollment in schools over the past four years[2]. The role of the private sector in greater participation

The area of education has seen dramatic changes. Today, more than 60% of India's higher education institutions are funded by the private sector. This has accelerated the development of institutes that have originated over the last decade, making India home to the world's largest

number of higher education institutions, with student enrolment at the second highest The number of universities increased 34 times from 20 in 1950 to 677 in 2014. Despite these figures, many of these institutions have not been rated among the best in the world by international education rating agencies. India has also not managed to produce universities of the world class. Today, strength is intelligence. The more one has awareness, the more one is motivated. India continues to face stern challenges, however. 25% of its population is still illiterate, despite increasing investment in education; only 15% of Indian students are in high school, and only 7% are graduates[3]. Compared to the world's major developed nations, the standard of education in India, whether in primary or higher education, is substantially low.

As of 2008, the post-secondary institutions of India offer only adequate seats for 7% of the college-age population of India, 25% of teaching positions nationally are vacant, and 57% of college professors lack either a master's or PhD degree. As of 2011, with an annual student intake of 582,000 (Science and Technology Education, 2009), there are 1522 degree-granting engineering colleges in India plus 1,244 polytechnics with an annual intake of 265,000. These institutions, however, face a shortage of faculty and questions about the quality of education have been raised[4]. Despite these challenges, India's higher education system still has many opportunities to address these challenges and has the capacity to develop its international identity. However, greater transparency and accountability are needed, the role of universities and colleges in the new millennium is of vital importance, and ongoing scientific research into how people learn. Therefore, India provides highly qualified individuals to other nations; it is very convenient for India to move our country from a developing nation to a developed nation.

Challenges in Higher Education in India

It is our 69th year of independence still our education system has not been developed fully. We are not able to list a single university in top 100 universities of the world. Various governments changed during these six decades. They tried to boost the education system and implemented various education policies but they were not sufficient to put an example for the universe[5]. UGC is continuously working and focusing on quality education in higher education sector. Still we are facing lot of problems and challenges in our education system. Some of the basic challenges in higher education system in India are discussed below:

Enrolment

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of India in higher education is only 15 percent which is quite low as compared to the developed as well as, other developing countries. With the increase of enrolments at school level, the supply of higher education institutes is insufficient to meet the growing demand in the country[6].

Equity

There is no equity in GER among different sects of the society. According to previous studies the GER in higher education in India among male and female varies to a greater extent. There are regional variations too some states have high GER while as some is quite behind the national GER which reflect a significant imbalances within the higher education system.

Quality

Quality in higher education is a multi-dimensional, multilevel, and a dynamic concept. Ensuring quality in higher education is amongst the foremost challenges being faced in India today. However, Government is continuously focusing on the quality education. Still Large number of colleges and universities in India are unable to meet the minimum requirements laid down by the UGC and our universities are not in a position to mark its place among the top universities of the world.

Opportunities in Higher Education

India is a large country, with an estimated population of young people aged between 18 to 23 years to be around 150 millions. The sheer size of the market offers huge opportunities for development of the higher education sector in India. India now boasts of having more than 33,000 colleges and 659 universities, which has been quite a remarkable growth during the last six decades. The year 2012 witnessed 21.4 million enrollments, which makes India the 3rd largest educational system in the world. Unfortunately, the educational infrastructure of India is inadequate to handle such huge volumes. In spite all the government spending in the educational sector, it is just too insufficient to meet the growing requirements. Therefore, higher Education sector has now been identified as one of the promising areas for private and foreign investments[7]. It offers immense investment opportunities in both non-regulated and regulated segments. Indian higher education system is growing very fast irrespective of various challenges but there is no reason that these Challenges cannot be overcome. With the help of new-age learning tools, it is easy for country like India to overcome these problems and bring a paradigm shift in the country's higher education sector. With such a vibrant country with huge population properly educated, the possibilities are endless. If knowledge is imparted using advanced digital teaching and learning tools, and society is made aware of where we are currently lagging behind, our country can easily emerge as one of the most developed nations in the world. There are opportunities for strategic engagement and capacity building in higher education leadership and management at the state level. There are opportunities for India to collaboration at national and international level on areas of systemic reform, including quality assurance, international credit recognition, and unified national qualifications framework. Equality of educational opportunity in higher education is considered essential because higher education is a powerful tool for reducing or eliminating income and wealth disparities. The idea of equalizing educational opportunities also lies in the fact that "the ability to profit by higher education is spread among all classes of people. There are great reserves of untapped ability in the society; if offered the chance they can rise to the top. A great deal of talent of the

highest level is, in fact, lost by an inegalitarian system of education". The need to enhance the employability of graduates is presenting entry points for collaboration in enterprise education and entrepreneurship, links with industry, research skills and the wide range of transferable skills, including English. The emerging interest in Indian higher education institutions in the vocational skills market provides areas for potential engagement with international partners[8]. There is a need to build stronger relationships and increase mutual understanding in higher education by increasing support and participation in platforms (conferences, workshops, seminars) which enable debate and dialogue with other countries of the world.

Suggestions Improving the System of Higher Education

There is a need to implement innovative and transformational approach from primary to higher education level to make Indian educational system globally more relevant and competitive. Higher educational institutes need to improve quality and reputation. There should be a good infrastructure of colleges and universities which may attract the students. Government must promote collaboration between Indian higher education institutes and top International institutes and also generates linkage between national research laboratories and research centres of top institutions for better quality and collaborative research. There is a need to focus on the graduate students by providing them such courses in which they can achieve excellence, gain deeper knowledge of subject so that they will get jobs after recruitment in the companies which would reduce unnecessary rush to the higher education. Universities and colleges in both public private must be away from the political affiliations, Favouritism; money making process should be out of education system etc[9]. There should be a multidisciplinary approach in higher education so that students' knowledge may not be restricted only up to his own subjects.

II. CONCLUSION

Education is a process by which a person's body, mind and character are formed and strengthened. It is bringing of head, heart and mind together and thus enabling a person to develop an all-round personality identifying the best in him or her. Higher education in India has expanded very rapidly in the last six decades after independence yet it is not equally accessible to all. India is today one of the fastest developing countries of the world with the annual growth rate going above 9 percent. Still a large section of the population remains illiterate and a large number of children's do not get even primary education. This is not only excluded a large section of the population from contributing to the development of the country fully but it has also prevented them from utilizing the benefits of whatever development have taken place for the benefit of the people. No doubt India is facing various challenges in higher education but to tackle these challenges and to boost higher education is utmost important. India is a country of huge human resource potential, to utilise this potential properly is the issue which needed to discuss. Opportunities are available but how to get benefits from these opportunities and how to make them accessible to others is the matter of concern. In order to sustain that rate of growth, there is need to increase the number of institutes and also the quality

of higher education in India. To reach and achieve the future requirements there is an urgent need to relook at the Financial resources, Access and Equity, Quality Standards, Relevance, infrastructure and at the end the responsiveness.

III. REFERENCES

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