

Higher Education System in India: Obstacles & Suggestions

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ABSTRACT

“Education is most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. Education is the basic need of every society. Higher Education caters to the education in colleges and universities. It has great importance in the development of a country. However despite this impressive statistics there are still many obstacles and hurdles that plague the sector. The present paper holds an immediate importance of creating awareness of many issues and challenges concerned with the higher education in India at national as well as at global level. These include issues related with equity and quality, low gross enrollment rate, unqualified and poor faculty, poor focus on research, outmoded teaching methods, overcrowded classroom, inadequate infrastructure, ethnic imbalances, inadequate financial support from government and society etc. The study is also unique as it throws a gainful insight on the analyses the present position of higher education system in India and the opportunities and challenges faced by the higher education in India. The time has come to address the proper procedure to deal with, only then we can transform our country from a Developing Nation to a Developed Nation.

Key words: Development, Global, Statistics, Institutions.

I. INTRODUCTION

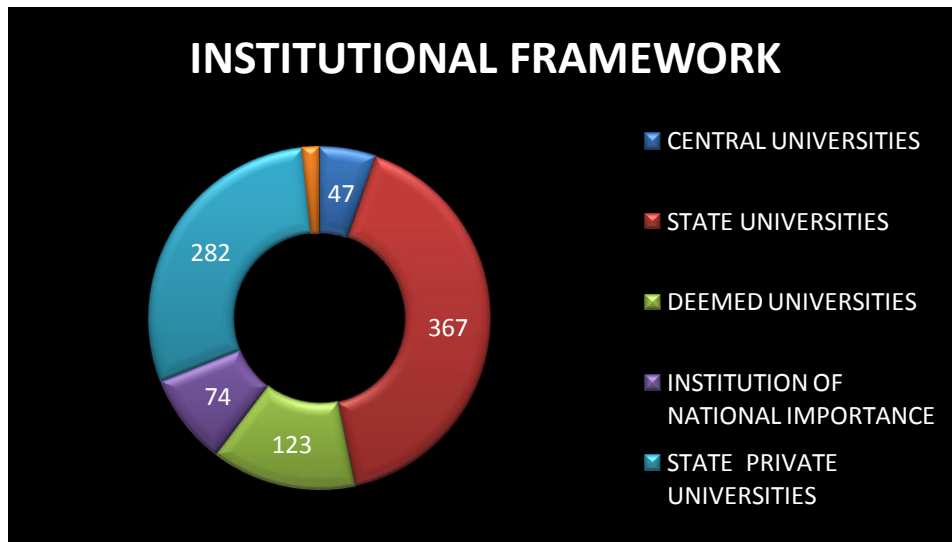
Education is the basic need of every society. Higher education caters to the education in colleges and universities. Earlier higher education used to be seen as a luxury, which was available to few only, but now it is proved that it contributes effectively in national, social and economic development. Basic level education makes the person literate while higher education makes him stand out and makes him realizes his true potential also give power to the individuals to get better employment, higher salary, propensity to consume and save.

Indian higher education system is the third in size in the world coming after US and CHINA. It hold the second largest place in terms of student enrollement.UGC is the main governing body of higher education in India that enforces the standards, advises the government and helps to coordinate between center and states. Indian higher education system has expanded at a fast pace in many aspects as its enrollment, teacher student ratio, institution capacity etc. The growth of universities from 2000-01 to 2017-18 is almost more than four times as in 2000-01 there were 256 universities in India and in 2017-18 at present they are 893 in number.

Total 47 central universities are there including 1 central Open University. 14 universities are exclusively for women, 4 in Rajasthan, 2 in Tamil Nadu and 1 each in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Haryana Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttrakhand and west Bengal. According to the department of higher education government of India, 33903 colleges including 1800 exclusive women’s colleges, functioning under these universities and institutions in India . Bangalore district tops in term of number of colleges with 970 followed by Jaipur with 616 colleges. Apart from this higher education there are several private institutions in India the offer various number of professional course in India. The current emphasis in Indian higher education has been mostly on science and technology. Distance learning and open education are also an essential feature of Indian higher education system. At all India level there are merely 64 female teacher per 100 male teachers.

II. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

In India the institutional framework consist of Central universities, State universities, deemed universities, institution of national importance, state private universities. The list is updated by UGC as on JUNE 2017.



Total number of universities as compares to last year according to data all India survey report and department of higher education:-

	2016	2017
Central universities	46	47
State universities	356	367
Deemed universities	118	123
Institution of national importance	74	74
State private universities	253	282

III. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The present study throws a gainful insight on

- To analyze the present status and position of higher education system in India.
- Issues and challenges faced by higher education system in India.
- Suggesting the measures to overcome issues and challenges related to higher education in India.

IV. CHALLENGES AND ISSUES FACED BY HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

- **LOW GROSS ENROLLMENT RATIO:-** Higher education enrollment is a leading indication of economic growth of any country. India has very low GER as compared to other developing nations. Currently India's GER is 23.6% which is calculated for 18-23 years of age group. For male population 24.5% and for female 22.7%. government of India has target to increase GER to 30% in 2020-21.
- **Quota system:-** debating quota system is very controversial. But if we are being honest then I must tell quota is not good for higher education. Talent and merit is more important than any one's identity.
- **Huge demand and supply gap:-** There is a huge demand for getting admissions in some particulars institutes while other colleges and universities lament about the vacant seats of the college. There are also some courses for which demand is in excess to the available seats while there is excess capacity in others.
- **Mushrooming of low quality institutes:-** mushrooming of low quality institute all over the country is not good for higher education. These new colleges lack capacity and they are all about fleecing money from students and their parents. There is too much glamour and less quality of education.
- **Shortage and lack of qualified faculty:-** If we taken into account the ideal student and teacher ratio, and compare it with India, we will find huge gap. There is clearly a lack of educated educators. Their knowledge is very insufficient. Even the teachers are not having proper knowledge of their subjects.
- **Less creative and innovative students:-** Students do not have any student-ship ethics, they just want marks in the subject and they study only for grabbing jobs. There is no creativity in students. Our top class students are hard working but not innovative. They are not capable enough to produce new technology.
- **Access:-** Access means availability of suitable number of institutions across region to fulfill demand. Access to higher education has remained poor despite the massive expansion of this sector in the country. Ensuring equitable access to the quality higher education for students coming from poor families is a major challenge.
- **Lack of flexibility:-** lack of flexibility to students in selection of the courses and subject of their choice is also a big issue faced by Indian higher education system.

- **Equity:** - Equity is more a difficult challenge than access to higher education. The disparity is found to be due to the urban-rural divide, inequality in income distribution, gender and religion.
- **Imbalanced growth in higher education sector:** - Higher education sector suffers from imbalanced growth across the country. The rural area, which represent about 68.84% of total population have just 20% of the total professional colleges.
- **Inadequate financial support:** - One of the key issues of higher education is a shortcoming of financial strength. There is a serious problem of inadequate and diminishing financial support from government and society for higher education in India.
- **No project based learning and Poor focus on research:**-just theory is not enough young graduates need to learn vocational skills. And Research in higher education institutions is at its lowest ebb. India's priorities for research and innovation should be conditioned by our socio-economic realities.
- **Other challenges:**-many more challenges faced by higher education in India is related with poor infrastructure of institutions, overcrowded classrooms ,traditional and outmoded method of teaching, political interferences etc.

V. SUGGESTIONS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES

- **Provision of adequate trained and qualified faculty:** - Student teacher ratio must be brought up to an ideal level and all faculties must possess adequate qualifications and training before taking up education.
- **Make the curriculum dynamic not dogmatic:** the curriculum or the syllabus for students in our country in higher education is outdated in most cases. It is stale, dogmatic and teachers' things that the world has moved on with. To infuse dynamism, you need the curriculum to be progressive in nature.
- **Enable better funding for institutions:** - Government must provide sufficient autonomy and funding for all institutions.
- **Less political interference:** - There should be lesser political interference in university and colleges. It should be politics free.
- **Privatization of higher education:** - Privatization of higher education is very necessary in a vast country like India as government alone is helpless. Adoption of PPP (public, private partnership) model can be possible solution of many problems faced by higher education in India.
- **Mobilize resources:** - effective measures should be taken to mobilize resources for higher education. There is also a need to relate the fee structure to the student's capacity to pay for the cost.
- **High-tech libraries:**-universities colleges must have a very good collection of books. A library must be online and conducive for serious study.
- Promote use of internet and communication technology.
- Government must ensure proper physical access to rural sectors and emphasis on construction of higher education institutions in closer proximity to villages.
- Focus should on improving the infrastructure of existing institutions.
- There is need to focus on 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.

CONCLUSION

India is today one of the fastest developing countries of the world with annual growth rate going above 9%. In order to sustain that growth, there is need to talk about the problems of higher education in India and highlight so that government can resolve them. Now, the time has come to relook at the financial resources, access and equity, quality standard, relevance properly to reach and achieve the future requirements. We need higher educated people who are skilled and drive our Indian economy forward. Only then we can transfer our country from a developing nation to a developed nation.

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