

# IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA: KEY CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

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**Abstract:** Education is the backbone of a nation where higher education occupies a vital space in the formal education. India has successfully created one of the leading higher education systems in the world. In such a situation globalization increased the demand for higher education in our country India. Globalization is an umbrella term which means to increase global connectivity, integration and interdependence in the area of economics, social science, technology, culture and politics throughout the whole world. Globalization of higher education has also made remarkable changes in cross-border education. Now, Indian universities and various institutes are open to the global market and hope to attract more foreign students. As the country has opened its door to the foreign contributors in the field of education, it has to face the challenges of globalization and pressures of liberalization. No one can deny the fact that, Indian higher education has attained a key position in the knowledge society under globalized economy. Keeping the above in view, present paper deliberates the impact of globalization on higher education in India with the key challenges and its various issues.

**Keywords:** Globalization, Higher Education, Challenges, Innovation, Technology, liberalization, cross-border education

## Introduction:

At the start of the 21st century globalization has a profound effect on Indian higher education system. Globalization is a process, which has affected many areas of human life, one of them is education. In the 20th century, many developing countries have experienced development in the educational system due to the entry of institutions from the western countries. Some believe that this process is a valuable opportunity for the people of the developing countries to raise their skills and standards of education. But some people fear that it is merely a modern version of cultural imperialism that will lead to the creation of a western society in future. No human activity has remained unaffected by globalization. The entry of foreign universities into India is an inevitable consequence of globalization. Globalization increases the demand for higher education and for educational quality. The current globalization of higher education creates both challenges and opportunities. Educational goals are seen to be an area of great concern in the era of globalization. The researcher was inspired by the fact that globalization is imposing major changes specifically in higher education system of our country. Thus the researcher in this paper mainly focused on the impacts of globalization on higher education in India with the key challenges and the various issues of globalization. The objectives of the present study are as follows:

- To define and discuss the term 'Globalization'.
- To explain the various issues of globalization.
- To discuss the positive and negative impacts of globalization on higher education in India.
- To explain the key challenges and opportunities of globalization.
- To explain the current Indian higher education system and its existing problems.

This paper is theoretical and descriptive in nature. The sources used in this paper are purely secondary source of data, which is appropriate for this study.

## Globalization:

Enders and Fulton (2002) stated that, "Globalization is primarily the processes of increasing interdependence, and ultimately convergence, economies, and to the liberalization of trade and markets. In addition and as an observable consequence, globalization has a strong cultural component, which tends to encourage the establishment of a usually (Western) global-brand culture, although in principle it can also support the diffusion of more indigenous traditions".

Ifeany (2011) stated that, "Globalization is the process by which more emphases are laid on economic, political and cultural relations among the diverse and different peoples of the world whereby trade barriers are broken down and market integration encouraged among different nations of the world".

The Knight and de Wit (1997) define as the "Globalization is the flow of technology, economy, knowledge, people, values, ideas... across the borders. Globalization affects each country in a different way due to a nation's individual history, traditions, culture and priorities."

Thus globalization is complex term, involving a large number of integrated components operating together and characterized by constant changes. Various types of globalization took place in our country like political globalization, economic globalization, cultural globalization, environmental globalization and educational globalization. Among them educational globalization is the vast change which took place in India. Globalization of education is not a new concept in the world. During the colonial era, globalization in education was geared towards nationalization of colonial education system in every country by the colonial powers. As a result, Western values affected all nations in the world including India. Educational globalization means wider and broader educational opportunities for citizens (Lam, 2010). The foundation for globalization is education and globalization also influences education significantly.

**Indian Higher Education System:**

Higher Education means training of highly skilled specialist in the field of economics, science, technology and culture at various types of higher schools, which accept persons who have successfully completed secondary general education. At present, India possesses a highly upgraded higher education system which offers facility of education and training in almost all aspects of human's creative and intellectual aspects such as arts and humanities, mathematics and social sciences, engineering, medicine, dentistry, agriculture, education, law, commerce and management, music and performing arts, national and foreign languages, culture, communications etc. Higher education system in India has the following framework:

**1. Academic Framework****• General-**

Bachelors (B.A, B.Sc, B.Com, BBM)

Masters (M.A, M.Sc, M.Com)

Doctoral (Ph.D, D.Phil, M.Phil)

**• Professional-**

Bachelors (MBBS, B.E, B.Tech, BDS)

Masters (MS/MD, MBA, MDS, M.Tech)

Doctoral (Ph.D, D.Phil, M.Phil)

**• Vocational –**

Polytechnic, Diploma, ITI

Retail Management, Hospitality, Call Centre training, Aviation, IT courses, etc

**2. Institutional Framework**

The degree and diploma awarding institutions in India for higher studies are Central Universities, State Universities, Deemed Universities, Private Universities, Open Universities and Institutes of National Importance.

**3. Regulatory Framework**

The institutions imparting higher education at different levels are regulated by University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), India Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Bar Council of India (BCI), Distance Education Council (DEC).

**Paradigm shift in Indian Higher Education:**

A paradigm shift in the education system is essential to help students express their creativity and make teaching-learning process more children centric and interactive. The Indian educational system to face challenges of globalization through Information and communication technology offer opportunities to evolve new paradigms shifts in developmental education. The distinction between formal, non-formal and informal education will disappear when transformation from industrial society to information society takes place. The paradigm shift in education is essential in the whole world.

- From teaching - Distributed and group teaching.
- From classroom - Distributed Classroom.
- From learning from a teacher - Learning from resources, group of teachers / experts and through interactivities.
- From content learning - Objectives and Outcome oriented learning.
- From examinations - Continuous formative and summative evaluation.
- From campus education - Distributed education.
- From campus environment - Virtual educational environment.
- From a single institution - Distributed Institutions.
- From mass education - Personalized mass education.

**Major problems faced by Indian higher education:****1. Marketing of Education:**

Higher education is now becoming a marketing commodity. It is a marketing business across the whole world. Foreign universities are trying to have a share of Indian educational markets, and have prepared for this during the last decades. This shift from education as a social good to marketable commodity is against the Indian culture. The poor and disadvantaged people of India become the daily sufferers for these changes.

**2. Global Competitiveness:**

Globalization raised the quality and standards of Indian higher education and makes it globally competitive, which increase the cost of higher studies in the market.

**3. Concerns of weaker institutions:**

Due to globalization in education high disparity in educational standards and quality of education offered by Indian universities and colleges is of great concern to all. National and global competition may create problems of survival of weaker universities and colleges.

**4. Developmental disparities problems:**

Many colleges and universities were started in India for removing regional imbalances and for supporting education of weaker and disadvantaged classes, particularly for women. These institutions and other developmental programs for weaker classes are still facing resource problems. Thus many educated students from weaker and disadvantages sections kept outside the job and employment markets which create disparities among students.

**5. Weak linkage of education with developmental processes:**

Higher studies now create frustration amongst graduate students when they find that education is not so useful in employment and in work situations. A global challenge comes to transform the system from its present model of education to developmental education which will link education to developments of society. But in our country there is weak linkage of education with developmental processes.

**6. Increasing cost of higher education:**

The unit cost of traditional education, particularly the professional education, is quite high and has gone out of reach of the Indian middle and lower classes. Many private companies have started educational institutions for offering creamy courses with higher marketing approach. Subsidy for getting education by the state is not the right solution in the present situation because the numbers aspiring candidates for higher education is large and ever increasing day by day.

**7. Lack of vocational bias:**

Indian higher education still lacks a vocational bias with a large proportion of students still enrolling in general courses that do not provide job-oriented training in future.

**8. Shortage of well-qualified & trained teachers:**

Availability of qualified teachers is a key challenge in the higher education segment which also hampers to get quality education. Reasons for the shortage of qualified teachers include low salaries and availability of higher paying alternatives for qualified professionals.

**9. Low access to student loans:**

The educational loan market has been growing rapidly in our country but still caters largely only to students enrolling in leading recognized institutes. Low access to student loan is also a major problem to get higher studies. Poor students suffers a lot to get educational loans.

**Opportunities and Challenge of Globalization:**

Globalization is viewed as a concept that presents a number of opportunities to countries because of its constructs that provide independence in geographic location. Companies or organizations are also able to compete internationally without any restrictions due to globalization. Globalization has fostered and transformed the world into a global village because of increased interactions and interdependent. Globalization increases the economic prosperity and opportunity in the developing world. Research studies have highlighted a number of factors that can be viewed as the downside of globalization. The key challenges of globalization are as follows-

- ✓ Security problem, terrorism and higher crime levels have to a large extent been increased due to the forces of globalization. Many countries, who feel threatened by the new citizens within their countries, have to adopt remedial policies to overcome such threats. Many countries are forced to spend quite substantial amounts of money on security initiatives.
- ✓ Globalization has also been blamed for undermining institutional authority and stability. Like the destruction of traditional values and morals occurs as technology relays new lifestyles in the country. The resultant effect on the communities due to globalization is the erosion of traditions as people adopt new ways of doing things.
- ✓ Due to globalization many private sector institutes have grown at a rapid pace over the last few years in the country which suspect the quality of education delivered in many private institutes. The University affiliation structure enforces central curriculum standards; while this has helped enforce a minimum standard of curriculum to some extent.

**Globalization and its impact on Indian Higher Education System:**

Globalization has a multi-dimensional impact on Indian higher education system. It promotes new tools and techniques in the areas like E-learning, flexible learning, globalized distance education programs, overseas education/training, etc. Globalization effect the institutional framework in developing, developed and industrial countries. The impact of globalization on higher education provides new dimensions for study and research areas. The relationship between higher education and globalization is intimate. An OECD publication summarizes the relation between globalization and higher education as follows:

- Higher Education drives and is driven by globalization. Higher education trains the highly skilled workers and contributes to the research base and capacity for innovation that determine competitiveness in the knowledge-based global economy. It facilitates international collaboration and cross-cultural exchange. Cross-border flows of ideas, students, faculty and financing, coupled with developments in information and communication technology, are changing the environment where higher education institutions function. Cooperation and competition are intensifying simultaneously under the growing influence of market forces and the emergence of new players. – (Summary of the OECD, 2009, p.13)
- OECD document says that “Globalization breaks down national barriers and connects universities to one another across the world, facilitates knowledge flows, values and culture. Universities are thus major agents of globalization.”

**➤ Positive impacts of globalization on higher education in India:-**

Universities are the victims of globalization but at the same time they also became the agents of globalization. They are linked to various knowledge and production centre of the world. Globalization affects the universities by linking them to the international supply of knowledge, labour and way of conducting business. Universities have to compete globally and therefore must respond to global forces. In

this way, globalization can enhance institutional autonomy in the whole world. The Positive impacts of globalization on Indian higher education are as follows:-

1. **Helps in economical reforms:** It has done many pivotal changes in the role of state and restructuring of social welfares education, employment, agriculture, and health system in India. In higher education it was always the monopoly of middle class and elite groups of the society.
2. **Privatization of higher education:** Today it is the time of globalization and privatization. And India is not exempted from the effect of globalization. The Indian higher education systems became industry oriented due to this globalization. In this regards the Indian higher education system should be radically transformed to meet the new challenges of the 21st century. Today, India is required to set up a chain of educational institutions which are globally acceptable.
3. **Commercialization of education:** Commercialization of education has deprived many from getting higher education especially in the developing countries like India where there is illiteracy and poverty. The existing policy of globalization of higher education is motivated by profits rather than social justice.
4. **Teacher Education curriculum:** Today rapid changes of curriculum like lifelong education, flexible learning and the use of technology oriented learning have a major impact on all the areas of teacher education. So India get major changes in education system for qualitative and quantitative expansion, competency based and ICT based teaching learning process. It becomes possible only because of globalization.
5. **Skilled and trained workforce:** Indian higher education system becomes challenging to meet the demands put forth by globalization. To overcome those demand Indian higher education today is expected to produce skilled and trained workforce who can compete in this global market. Thus, one major impact of globalization is the development of skilled work force at all levels to meet the demands of increasing business environment.
6. **Educational policies:** Globalization also impacts the education policies of India. In the last two decades Indian government has formed various committees, commission and also different kinds of economic bodies like NAAC, UGC, NCTE, etc. Globalization also affects those commissions and educational policies of the country.
7. **Entry of foreign universities:** The Government of India allowed FDI into higher education due to globalization. The foreign universities are expected to bring the quality infrastructure in teaching, research work as well as physical infrastructure. This will attract large scale foreign investments into India and also increase reverse brain drain. Their entry should also increase the qualities in research areas and so on.
8. **E-learning:** The introduction of technology into the classroom is changing the nature of delivering education to students is gradually giving way to a new form of electronic literacy. Even examination system and gradation are gradually becoming available through electronic media. Also, students can be examined through computer managed learning system rather than in a classroom. This type of innovations in our country only possible due to globalization.

➤ **Negative impacts of globalization on higher education in India:-**

The negative impacts of globalization on Indian higher education are as follows:-

- Negative side of this globalization is that it could fade our traditional values and ethics.
- Another negative impact of this globalization is that it increasing the gap between the rich and poor for where rich people are becoming richer and poor are becoming poorer. Global learning has become beyond the reach of poor students.
- Commodification and commercialization of education increased in our country due to globalization.
- As a result of outsourcing, globalization may deprive an entire country of getting proper jobs and resources. This is because globalization takes jobs away from one country and provides it to another country.

**Conclusion:**

Globalization has become a wide spread idea in national and international dialogue in recent years. Globalization has many differential impacts on Indian Higher Education. As more countries in the world recognize the economic potential of higher education as a service export sector, thus global competition among the best and brightest students also increased. Global interaction is expected to improve the quality of education and performance evaluation at all levels of education. Globalization of higher education may help India to take advantage of opportunities in the new global environment. The impact of globalization on education is a subject of debate and discourse within the whole global community. Now, Indian universities are open to the global market and hope to attract more foreign students which will also benefit Indian students to boosts their growth. It is possible only because of globalization.

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