

# PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN INDIA: A CATALYST FOR NATIONAL GROWTH

Bhawana Sharma

Ph.D. Research Scholar, CEDS, Panjab University, Chandigarh

**Abstract:** In the world of technology boom, competitive economies and global collaboration, it is virtually impossible for a nation to ignore the importance of education, especially the professional one for achieving sustainable growth and development. Professional education has strongly made its importance felt in the global world especially after the adoption of policy of liberalization by various nations including India. Today government of India, like any other development obsessed nation, is making every effort to promote quality professional education of the youth. But in the endeavor to achieve unceasing progress with the help of professional education, it has to work on qualitative aspect of the same as quantity always follows quality. To produce skillful and profession oriented youth, able to compete at global level, world class facilities should be provided in the institutes. The focus of current paper is thus, to analyze the status of professional education in India and suggestions to improve the same.

## INTRODUCTION

In the changing world scenario, it is essential to equip the students with such abilities and skills that they may adjust well and rise, as the progress of country lies in the hands of youth of the nation. Only educated, competent and well placed youth can lead the nation towards the way to progress. Sustainable growth of a nation is directly linked with the quality of education provided to its youth. More the educated, skillful and professional the youth of a nation, the more developed is the nation. The ability to solve the problem, collaborate, creative and critical thinking, communicate effectively, initiate, adapt and technology literate are the few among many other skills expected of a learner in the twenty first century. In the emerging global competition, possessing knowledge is not important but to have an expertise to apply the acquired knowledge in a given situation is more important.

Professional education includes any program or course work that upgrades the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior of the learner in such a way that he or she may adjust well in the professional life. According to Sarkisov, P.D. (2009), professional education can be defined in different ways out of which, on the basis of goal of education, "professional education would be the education of different levels by means of which people qualify for a certain profession or specialty." The aim of professional education remains to prepare the learner for entering, adjusting and rising in the job area by understanding the knowledge, concepts, principles, techniques, competencies and values attached to a particular discipline.

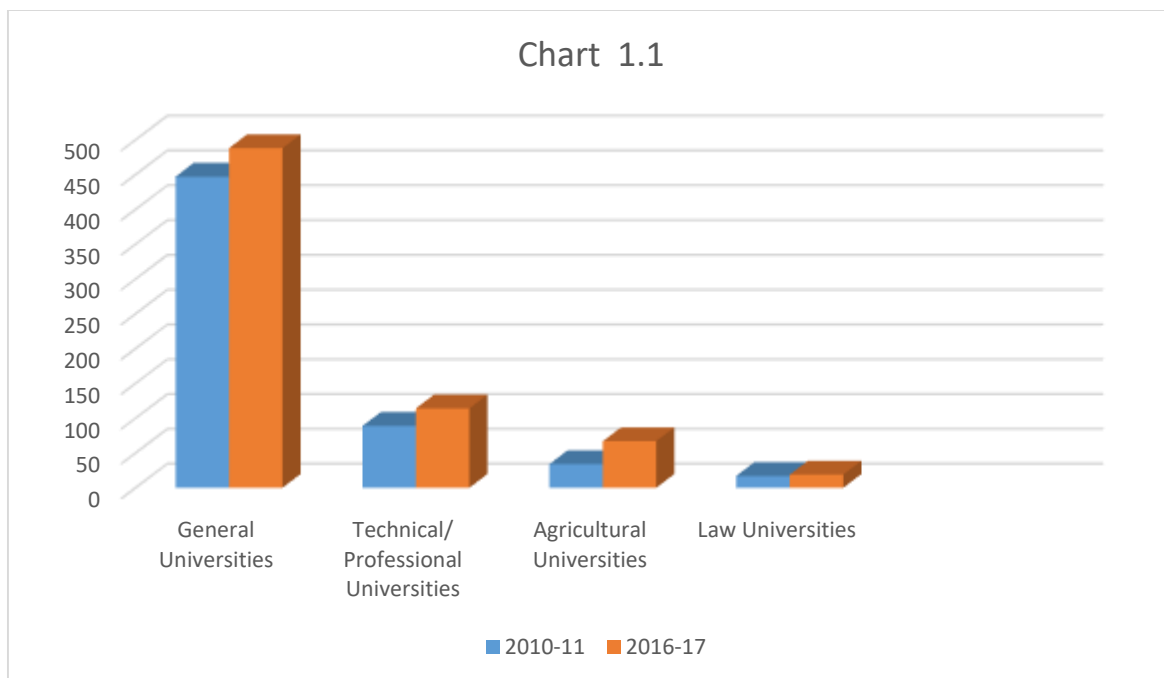
New global opportunities and economic transformations in recent times has made it essential for every nation to invest in professional education. We may not forget that purposeful education with global ramifications, particularly the professional one has enabled one time developing economies like China to find its place in the developed economies of the world. It is in this context that professional education has gained so much importance all around the world in general and India in particular.

## CURRENT STATUS OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

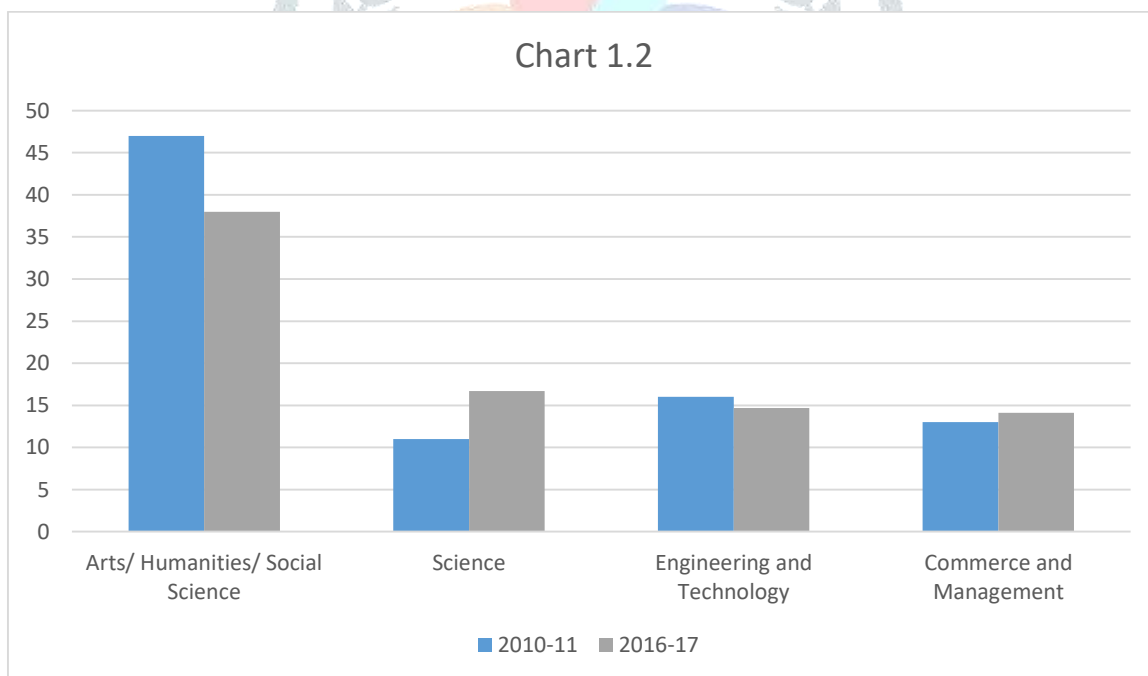
In the last two decades professional education has assumed so much importance that it is almost impossible to think of much development -socio-economic to be more specific- in India particularly in the context of emerging global competitive economies and more so with the revolution in information communication technology. Government of India has been giving considerable significance to quality aspect of professional education so that the youth can be empowered with much needed skills and competencies in the new world order. Professional education has been widening its sphere particularly in the post liberalization reforms with the coming of private institutions, signing MoUs with foreign universities and creating opportunities for foreign students to acquire education from Indian institutes of professional education.

Efforts are being made to produce a meaningful workforce by introducing innovative courses using technology based teaching learning methods which can give better exposure to the young students and to bring them at par with their counterparts all around the world. To regulate, recognize, promote and provide grants to the professional education, as many as 15 statutory professional councils have been formed in India (UGC 2018). In addition to that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) recognizes 91 institutions of national importance which offer variety of professional courses to the students and are preparing the youth for global placement. These institutes are playing an important role in developing highly skilled personalities in the country and keeping the standards high for other professional institutes.

In the last few years there is a balanced increase in the number of universities of professional education. The comparison of number of universities from 2010-11 (from when the survey reports started) till 2016-17 (the latest report) show that there is a huge gap in number of general (Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences) and profession oriented universities in India. The comparison also highlights that the number of universities for profession oriented education is increasing slowly but steadily, which ensures the bright future of the nation as it is the professional education that prepares the learner for global placement and in turn increasing the employment rate. The chart 1.1 shown below depicts the number of universities during different years:



After the availability of the institutes of professional education in India, the next component is the enrollment of students in various programs of education at undergraduate level. The comparison of enrollment of students during various years highlighted in chart 1.2 shows that in India, majority of students get enrolled in Arts, Humanities or social sciences programs at undergraduate level. The trend triggers the need to motivate the students to get enrolled in the institutes of professional education. While comparing both the charts, it also comes into focus that although the enrollment in general courses (Arts/ Humanities and Social Sciences) is decreasing (Chart 1.2), still the number of universities has increased (Chart 1.1), which shows that the governmental policies are not being framed keeping in mind the trend of the masses which in turn hinders systematic growth of the sector.



**SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION:**

Various policies, plans and regulatory bodies in India are making efforts to not only attract large number of students to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) but also to produce good quality of professionals which can contribute in all areas of development, thereby helping India to achieve a reasonable target of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Introduction of innovative methods and techniques to enhance the professional productivity of the students can help the nation in its endeavor towards development. To bring required changes in the field of professional education, following suggestions may be of interest:

- Correct the priorities and strategies at policy level

- Bridge the gap between demand and supply by increasing GER in all the sectors
- Allocate sufficient funds for infrastructural needs
- Regulate the activities of private parties involved in the sector
- Curb the mushrooming of low quality institutes by setting the standards high
- Bring accountability and transparency related structural reforms
- Develop a sense of competitiveness among institutes of professional education
- Appoint competent, dynamic and tech-savvy teachers
- Infuse advance technology in various aspects of professional education such as curriculum development, pedagogical methods and training
- Concentrate not only on teaching and learning but also on research and development aspects
- Motivate youth to aspire for enrollment in professional institutes of education
- Make professional education more approachable and affordable for students
- Train the youth in such a manner that they may become able to enter, adapt and progress well in the profession
- Attract foreign students to study in Indian professional Institutes

#### CONCLUSION:

For the growth of the society it is essential to make the youth pertinent to the society and to make the youth useful to the society, it is essential to equip them with professional attitude. Only a reinvented structure of professional education can engage and train the youth of India for needed areas and can enable them to compete in the global economy. Professional education that enables the learner to have broader understanding of the world, trains to develop problem solving abilities, provides exposure for personal and professional growth and places to get lucrative job opportunities is the need of the hour.

#### REFERENCES

All India Survey on Higher Education. (2010-11). MHRD. Department of Higher Education. New Delhi

All India Survey on Higher Education. (2016-17). MHRD. Department of Higher Education. New Delhi

Sarkisov, P.D. (2009). Professional Education. Quality for Human Resources: Education. Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems. Vol II

UGC (2018). Professional Councils <https://www.ugc.ac.in/page/Professional-Councils.aspx>

