

Disparities in Higher Education in Indian States: A Comparative Analysis

Dr. Lokesh Kumar

Dr. Venu Trivedi

*Faculty of Geography, Government College, Pipalrawan, Dewas, M.P. India

**Prof & Head, Dept. of Geography, SKP PG College, Dewas, M.P. India

Abstract: - *The present study mainly focused on disparities in Higher Education in India. The majority of states in India have wide disparities in term of higher education enrolment, gross enrolment ratio and gender parity index. Disparities between the educational levels in all state of different social groups have been both the cause and the effect of the differentials between their levels of socio-economic development. The study is to analyze the level of disparity in enrolment of higher education, gross enrolment ratio and gender parity index. The secondary data collated from the selected educational statistics of MHRD, Government of India. The state wise data corresponding to the year 2011-12 and 2015-16 have been used for the purpose. Coefficient of variation is calculated to measure disparities in higher education in India. It is found that there is significant deference between categories all social groups and categories of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The deference is 4.6 per cent in GER between all categories and Scheduled Castes and also more deference 10.3 per cent in GER between all categories and Scheduled Tribes. It shows the less presentation in higher education of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India. After analyzing the data, it was also observed that number of female students enrolled in higher education are less as compared to male students enrolled in higher classes. This fact is attributed to many factors such as most of the students whose parents are living below the poverty line are not able to go college after completing their higher secondary education level of education because they are pressurized by their families to earn.*

Introduction: - Higher Education is defined as the education, which is obtained after completing 12 years of schooling or equivalent and is of the duration of at least nine months (full time) or after completing 10 years of schooling and is of the duration of at least 3 years. The education may be of the nature of General, Vocational, Professional or Technical education (AISHE 2015-16). In the Era of knowledge-based economy where, to become specialize by gaining some special knowledge make a person more demandable to get employment and live a quality life. Higher education plays very vital role to became a person specialize and convert them into a human capital, which provide them to get a better employment opportunity in their life.

The Indian higher education system is one of the largest in the world in terms of the number of colleges and universities. From 354 universities and 10,152 colleges in 2000-01, the numbers have gone up to 799 universities, 39,071 colleges in 2015-16. The gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education has increased

nearly three time from around 8.1 per cent in 2000-01 to 24.5 per cent in 2015-16, with 34.5 million students enrolled in 2015-16.

The majority of states of India have wide disparities in term of higher education enrolment, gross enrolment ratio and gender parity index. Disparities in higher education in all states of different social groups have been both the cause and the effect of the differentials between their levels of socio-economic development. Concern for equity in education, therefore, stems not only from a moral commitment to the deprived but from the view point of nation building as well. A human resource development strategy calls for the maturation of the innate capabilities of all segments of the population with a view to their optimal utilization special efforts have been made since independence to extend the benefits of higher education to weaker section of society.

Methodology: - The study is to analyze the level of disparity in enrolment of higher education, gross enrolment ratio and gender parity index. The secondary data collated from the selected educational statistics of MHRD, Government of India. The state wise data corresponding to the year 2011-12 and 2015-16 have been used for the purpose. Coefficient of variation is calculated to measure disparities in higher education in India.

Status and Growth of Higher Education in India: - Status and growth in higher education institutions as well as gross enrolment ratio in the country shown in table 1. At the time of independence, the country had only 20 universities and 516 colleges with 0.2% gross enrolment ratio of all social groups. In 2015-16 there were 799 universities and 39071 colleges in country. Gross enrolment ratio was 24.5 per cent of categories of all social groups and Scheduled Castes gross enrolment ratio was 19.9 per cent in 2015-16 and for Scheduled Tribes it was 14.2 per cent.

Table 1
Status and growth of Higher Education in India

Years	Colleges	Universities	GER of All Category	GER of SC	GER of ST
1947-48	516	20	0.2	NA	NA
1950-51	578	27	0.2	NA	NA
1960-61	1,819	45	0.6	NA	NA
1970-71	3,277	82	2.0	NA	NA
1980-81	6,963	110	2.8	NA	NA
1990-91	5,748	184	4.4	NA	NA
2000-01	10,152	254	8.1	5.8	4.2
2010-11	32974	621	19.4	13.5	8.9
2011-12	34852	642	20.8	14.9	11.0
2012-13	35525	667	21.5	16.0	11.1
2013-14	36634	723	23.0	17.1	11.3
2014-15	38498	760	24.3	19.1	13.7
2015-16	39071	799	24.5	19.9	14.2

Source- Higher Educational Statics at a Glance, MHRD, GOI, New Delhi

NA: Not Available

There is significant deference between categories all social groups and categories of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The deference is 4.6 per cent in GER between all categories and Scheduled Castes and

also more deference 10.3 per cent in GER between all categories and Scheduled Tribes. It shows the less presentation in higher education of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India.

Estimated Enrollment in Higher Education in Indian States: - The data shown in table 2 highlights estimated state wise enrollment in higher education of all categories. Total enrolment in higher education increased from 29.1 million in 2011-12 with 16 million boys and 13 million girls to 34.6 million in 2015-16 with 18.6 million boys and 16 million girls in in the country. Girls constituted 44.5 per cent in 2011-12 and this percentage has increased in 2015-16 up to 46.2 per cent of the total enrolment. As compared to boys constituted 55.5 per cent in 2011-12 and it is decreased up to 53.8 per cent in 2015-16.

Table 2
Estimated State Wise Enrollment in Higher Education

States	2011-12			2015-16		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2461	2797	5258	5344	5680	11024
Andhra Pradesh	1681108	1316929	2998037	969200	755338	1724538
Arunachal Pradesh	18767	16711	35478	23381	23071	46452
Assam	260453	272580	533033	292856	278099	570955
Bihar	784428	524163	1308591	928658	674202	1602860
Chandigarh	27608	33629	61237	49122	50870	99992
Chhattisgarh	165222	150786	316008	240872	225158	466030
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2074	1193	3267	2909	2545	5454
Daman & Diu	1014	756	1770	1881	1241	3122
Delhi	451785	372611	824396	526798	488078	1014876
Goa	18002	18326	36328	23585	23681	47266
Gujarat	684922	489824	1174746	865432	621697	1487129
Haryana	490029	402923	892952	448069	383590	831659
Himachal Pradesh	98141	95913	194054	113988	127717	241705
Jammu & Kashmir	160868	165486	326354	162548	170008	332556
Jharkhand	189319	166623	355942	307010	274633	581643
Karnataka	948088	812876	1760964	958378	899568	1857946
Kerala	281179	408353	689532	405562	533593	939155
Lakshadweep	219	559	778	150	351	501
Madhya Pradesh	1001858	583349	1585207	983122	742060	1725182
Maharashtra	2014394	1531959	3546353	2247820	1739492	3987312
Manipur	44668	45232	89900	50439	48901	99340
Meghalaya	28374	33052	61426	34599	36968	71567
Mizoram	13086	12315	25401	16342	15121	31463
Nagaland	23497	16653	40150	17889	19003	36892
Odessa	428060	354604	782664	498103	416572	914675
Pondicherry	25376	24367	49743	33992	31420	65412
Punjab	414667	371026	785693	457556	420923	878479
Rajasthan	899967	606193	1506160	992153	769307	1761460
Sikkim	12071	10682	22753	14926	14624	29550
Tamil Nadu	1674821	1430187	3105008	1690425	1544929	3235354
Telangana	NA	NA	NA	795790	678445	1474235
Tripura	32276	23393	55669	42743	31292	74035
Uttar Pradesh	2246874	1876883	4123757	3149002	2854074	6003076
Uttarakhand	191756	196912	388668	209965	195421	405386

West Bengal	856041	641013	1497054	1034114	892386	1926500
All India	16173473	13010858	29184331	18594723	15990058	34584781

Source- AISHE 2015-16

NA: Not Available

Uttar Pradesh comes at number one with the highest 6 million students enrollment followed by Maharashtra 3.9 million and Tamil Nadu 3.2 million students enrollment in 2015-16 as compared to states have lowest enrolled students are Lakshadweep with only 501 enrolled students, Daman & Diu 3122 students and Dadar & Nagar Haveli has 5454 students only. States have enrolled students more than one million are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujrat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as compared to states have less than one lakhs enrolled students are Andaman & Nicobar Island, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Goa, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tripura etc. The distribution of enrolled students in all states shows very wide disparity.

Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education (18-23 years) in Indian States: -Gross Enrolment Ratio refers to the number of students enrolled at different levels of education. Improvements in higher educational attainment are reflected in rising enrolment ratios at higher education level. It is clear from the table 3 gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education of the country increased from 20.8 in 2011-12 to 24.5 in 2015-16, which is calculated for 18-23 years of age group. GER for male population has increased from 21.1 in 2011-12 and 25.4 in 2015-16 and for female population GER increased from 19.4 in 2011-12 to 23.5 in 2015-16. It may be noted from the data given in table 3 that Chandigarh happens to have the highest values (57.6) for Gross Enrollment Ratio followed by Delhi (45.4) and Tamil Nadu (42.4). This is so in view of the fact that these are cities/states with a very large number of institutions of higher education. As compared to Daman & Diu happens to have lowest values (5.7) for GER followed by Lakshadweep (7.1) and Dadar & Nagar Haveli (9.1).

Table 3
Gross Enrollment Ratio in Higher Education (18-23 Years)

States	2011-12			2015-16		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	11.0	13.8	12.3	22.3	24.7	23.5
Andhra Pradesh	33.3	26.4	29.9	34.7	26.9	30.8
Arunachal Pradesh	22.5	20.2	21.3	28.8	28.5	28.7
Assam	14.6	14.8	14.7	16.2	14.7	15.4
Bihar	14.0	10.8	12.5	15.8	12.6	14.3
Chandigarh	33.2	54.4	42.2	48.4	70.4	57.6
Chhattisgarh	11.0	10.1	10.5	15.7	14.6	15.1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6.4	6.4	6.4	7.8	11.3	9.1
Daman & Diu	3.0	6.2	3.9	4.6	9.2	5.7
Delhi	38.9	39.0	38.9	43.0	48.2	45.4
Goa	21.5	25.9	23.5	25.0	30.9	27.6
Gujarat	18.1	14.7	16.5	22.9	18.3	20.7
Haryana	28.3	27.7	28.0	25.9	26.4	26.1
Himachal Pradesh	24.6	25.1	24.8	29.6	35.5	32.5
Jammu and Kashmir	21.8	24.0	22.8	23.5	26.2	24.8

Jharkhand	10.2	9.5	9.9	16.2	14.8	15.2
Karnataka	24.9	22.7	23.8	26.6	25.9	26.1
Kerala	17.8	25.6	21.8	26.6	35.0	30.8
Lakshadweep	6.2	17.5	11.5	4.1	10.2	7.1
Madhya Pradesh	22.0	14.6	18.5	21.1	17.9	19.6
Maharashtra	28.1	24.3	26.3	31.9	27.6	29.9
Manipur	30.4	29.9	30.2	35.3	33.1	34.2
Meghalaya	16.3	18.5	17.4	20.4	21.1	20.8
Mizoram	19.6	18.5	17.4	25.2	23.0	24.1
Nagaland	19.6	18.3	19.0	14.2	15.6	14.9
Odessa	18.2	13.4	15.8	21.5	17.8	19.6
Pondicherry	40.4	36.3	38.3	44.2	42.1	43.2
Punjab	22.4	23.6	23.0	25.8	28.5	27.0
Rajasthan	20.6	15.5	18.2	21.8	18.5	20.2
Sikkim	28.9	27.4	28.2	36.7	38.5	37.6
Tamil Nadu	43.2	36.8	40.0	46.3	42.4	44.3
Telangana	NA	NA	NA	39.3	33.4	36.3
Tripura	14.6	10.2	12.4	19.9	14.0	16.9
Uttar Pradesh	17.5	17.2	17.4	24.2	24.9	24.5
Uttarakhand	30.1	32.3	31.1	33.6	32.9	33.3
West Bengal	15.4	11.8	13.6	19.1	16.2	17.7
All India	21.1	19.4	20.8	25.4	23.5	24.5
Average	21.38	21.24	21.20	25.50	25.88	25.57
Slanderred Deviation	9.63	10.33	9.56	10.84	12.48	11.30
Coefficient of Variation %	45.04	48.63	45.09	42.50	48.22	44.20

Source- AISHE 2015-16

NA: Not Available

But the overall performance in term of Gross enrollment ratio improved and it is evident from declining trend in coefficient of variation over the period. Coefficient of variation has decreased from 45.09 per cent in 2011-12 to 44.20 per cent in 2015-16. Coefficient of variation is also decreasing in term of male and female gross enrollment ratio. It is decreased from 45.04 per cent in 2011-12 to 42.50 in 2015-16 for male population and also decreased or female population from 48.63 per cent in 2011-12 to 48.22 per cent in 2015-16. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in term of male and female is differing from one state to another state and Indian states have very wide disparity in GER.

After analyzing the data, it was also observed that number of female students enrolled in higher education are less as compared to male students enrolled in higher classes. This fact is attributed to many factors such as most of the students whose parents are living below the poverty line are not able to go college after completing their higher secondary education level of education because they are pressurized by their families to earn.

Gender Parity in Higher Education (18-23 years) in Indian States: - There is marginal increase in Gender Parity Index (GPI) in higher education for 18-23 years age group for all the categories as shown in the table 4. It has increased during the last 5 years, from 0.88 in 2011-12 to 0.92 in 2015-16. GPI has also increased marginally across all the States. It is evident from the analysis that coefficient of variation of GPI was almost increase in the tendency. In 2011-12 coefficient of variation was 39.42 per cent and it is decreased to 32.07 percent in 2015-16. Union territory of Lakshadweep gender parity index happens

to have highest 2.48 value in 2015-16 followed by Chandigarh and Dadar & Nagar Haveli. Lowest value of Gender Parity Index is found in Tripura 0.70 followed by Bihar and Gujrat.

Table 4
Gender Parity Index in Higher Education (18-23 Years)

S.N.	State	2011-12	2015-16
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.26	1.11
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0.79	0.77
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.89	0.99
4.	Assam	1.01	0.90
5.	Bihar	0.77	0.80
6.	Chandigarh	1.64	1.45
7.	Chhattisgarh	0.92	0.93
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.00	1.45
9.	Daman & Diu	2.07	2.01
10.	Delhi	1.00	1.12
11.	Goa	1.21	1.23
12.	Gujarat	0.81	0.80
13.	Haryana	0.98	1.02
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1.02	1.20
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.10	1.12
16.	Jharkhand	0.93	0.92
17.	Karnataka	0.91	0.99
18.	Kerala	1.44	1.32
19.	Lakshadweep	2.84	2.48
20.	Madhya Pradesh	0.67	0.85
21.	Maharashtra	0.86	0.86
22.	Manipur	0.98	0.84
23.	Meghalaya	1.13	1.04
24.	Mizoram	0.93	0.91
25.	Nagaland	0.74	1.10
26.	Odessa	0.82	0.83
27.	Puducherry	0.90	0.95
28.	Punjab	1.05	1.10
29.	Rajasthan	0.75	0.85
30.	Sikkim	0.95	1.05
31.	Tamil Nadu	0.85	0.92
32.	Telangana	NA	0.85
33.	Tripura	0.70	0.70
34.	Uttar Pradesh	0.98	1.03
35.	Uttarakhand	1.07	0.98
36.	West Bengal	0.76	0.85
All India		0.88	0.92
Average		1.04	1.06
Slandered Deviation		0.41	0.34
Coefficient of Variation %		39.42	32.07

Source- AISHE 2015-16

NA: Not Available

Conclusion: - The examination of state wise values of the selected indicators provides enough evidence to show that there are large regional variations in term of different measures of educational development. The educationally backward states are getting very low values in terms of enrolled students in higher education,

gross enrolment ratio and gender parity index while educationally develop states are getting high values in term of enrolment of higher education, gross enrolment ratio and gender parity index.

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