

INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM, ITS CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT

The higher education system plays an important role in the country. After independence, India realized that higher education was essential for overall development which includes industrial, social, financial conditions, etc. Indian higher education system is the third-largest education system in the world. There are a number of universities 993, colleges 39931 in the year 2018-19 in our country. Now a day's GER in higher education 18-23 years 26.30% and NEP 2020 are planning to enhance the GER to 50% by the year 2035. This paper includes the key challenges that India is currently facing in higher education and also includes some prospects taken by the government.

Key Words: Higher education system, challenges, prospects.

INTRODUCTION

India encompasses a wealthy and wonderful tradition of Higher Education from history. Nalanda, Takhasila, Vikramshila, and Vallabhi were some vital and well-known Universities of ancient Asian country and occupied a special place within the history of education within the country that stretched over quite 2000 years. These venerable establishments were an excellent record as centers of higher education within the World. British rule of India established Calcutta, Bombay and Madras University in 1857. It was thirty years later that the fourth the University of Allahabad came up and then thirty years elapsed before the fifth and therefore, the sixth, the University of Mysore and therefore, the Banaras Hindu University opened their doors.

The expansion of University education in British India was passing slowly by 1947-48. However when independence, India realized that university education was essential for a cultural revivification similarly as for meeting the scientific, technical, and alternative man's necessity. Therefore as of 2020, India has over a thousand universities and 39931 as government Degree College, reportable by the MHRD in 2020. The primary important step taken by the government of India within the field of education was the appointment of the university education commission in 1948, under Dr. Sravapalli Radhakrishnan (Ministry of Education 1950). Excluding creating recommendations on the governance of universities, and therefore, the putting in place of a UGC, the Commission urged the event of high standard's university education system.

Other commission and committees that have had a serious impact on the event of Higher education includes the Education Commission (Kothari 1964-66), The National Commission on Teachers (1983), and therefore, The National Knowledge Commission (NKC-1999). The first National Policy on Education was undertaken in 1968 and therefore, the second in 1986, and therefore, the third National Policy on Education has been taken in 2020 by the Indian government.

OBJECTIVES

- i) To explain the meaning and concept of higher education.
- ii) To describe the aims of higher education.
- iii) To analyze future prospects of higher education in India.
- iv) To state the progress of higher education in India.
- v) To identify the problems of higher education.
- vi) To suggest some alternatives and changes for improving the status of higher education.

DATA COLLECTION AND METHODOLOGY

For the present study primary sources of data mainly Various Govt. and other official documents and reports. And secondary sources have been published by books of different writers; Articles were published in different journals, different magazines, and newspapers, internet sites etc. Mainly qualitative method is used for analysis and interpretation of existing works of literature.

CONCEPT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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 3 years. Higher education includes a hierarchy of institutions and programmers. Different kinds of university- level institutions such as central universities, state universities, private universities, IITs, NITs, IIITs, IIMs, IISERs, occupy the upper end of the higher education spectrum. The various colleges offering general or specialized education, professional education, provide higher education.

“A university stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for progress, for the adventure of ideas and for the search for truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards even higher objectives. If the universities discharge their duty adequately, then it is well with the nation and the people” (Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, 13, 1947 at Allahabad University).

GROWTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Education is a very important factor for the development of a country. Education provides an opportunity to reflect upon the social, economic, cultural, and moral issues facing a human being. Now it is being focused on the overall scenario of higher education in India.

Table 1: Number of University, College ,Total Number of Student Enrolment in Higher Education and its Gross Enrolment Ratio(GER)				
Year	Number of university	Number of college	Total Number of Student Enrolment in Higher Education (in lakh)	GER in Higher Education (18-23 Years)
1950-51	27	578	4	-
1960-61	45	1819	10	1.5%
1970-71	82	3277	33	4.2%
1980-81	110	6963	48	4.7%
1990-91	184	5748	4.4	5.9%
2000-01	254	10152	86	-
2001-02	260	11146	8.8	8.1%
2005-06	350	16982	143	11.6%
2006-07	371	19812	156	12.4%
2007-08	406	23099	172	13.1%
2008-09	440	27882	185	13.7%
2009-10	436	25938	207	15.0%
2010-11	621	32974	275	19.4 %
2011-12	642	34852	292	20.8 %
2012-13	667	35525	301	21.5 %
2013-14	723	36634	323	23.0 %
2014-15	760	38498	342	24.3 %
2015-16	799	39071	346	24.5 %
2016-17	864	40026	357	25.2 %
2017-18	903	39050	366	25.8 %
2018-19	993	39931	374	26.3 %

Source: - Data during AISHE Annual Report from 2010-11 to 2018-19. Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India (website: <http://mhrd.gov.in/> statist)

DISCUSSION

The higher education system has seen a rapid expansion of these institutional arrangements, especially Colleges. The enrolment in Higher Education has grown by approx 4 lakhs between 1950-51 and 2018-2019 approx 374 lakhs. The number of university 993 and college 39931 were in our county in the Year 2018-19. Now a day's GER in higher education 18-23 years is 26.30%.

ISSUES WITH HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

1. Financing:

Financing is a major problem in higher education of India. Actually, India has been spending lots of money on higher education still, but it's not sufficient. Fortunately, if it is important to enhance the standard of higher education, then further funding is required.

2. **Expensive higher education:**

Structure of specialized and professional institutions such as IIM's is very excessive. It is well beyond the limit of the spending cap of the ordinary person. The privatization of higher education has contributed to the growth of business people who are hungry for profit. Education is actually a very exorbitant undertaking.

3. **The problem of brain drain:**

When there are no rational positions in the nation for wise, qualified and eligible applicants, they choose to move to another country to search for jobs. Therefore the decent knowledge is denying to our country. The said phenomenon is termed 'The Brain Drain.' As a result, we have wasted so many skills that could be used in our nation for the improvement of education and the nation's continued growth.

4. **Privatization:**

Privatization is still a major issue faced by higher education. The private institution is an alternative to higher education in regular mode. Besides that, privatization is not able to solve the issue. The tradition of innovation, invention, and acquiring new skills of young students must not be fostered.

5. **Political Factor:**

Often, political power is a negative thing and a higher education issue. In their politics, governing bodies would not want any political control or intervention.

6. **Moral Issues:**

The youth of today is not interested in representing their country, and they are more interested in just taking on a job and a hefty pay package.

CHALLENGES OF PRESENT HIGHER EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN INDIA

The Indian Higher Education System is the third-largest education system in the world, next to China and the United States which fulfills the educational requirements of millions of students is growing rapidly after independence even though it is hard to meet the complete needs of all the students from all the section of society. India is a multi-religious country, though it is harder to handle the requirement of a vast population. But in the last few decades, our administration has been taken the sharp focus upon the progression and improvement in the higher education system but still, there is a lot to do. Many challenges are yet to deal with; the challenges under the spotlight are as under:

1. **Demand-Supply Gap:**

According to the recent report of the HRD ministry, recently 26.3 percent of students go for higher education from the country but close to achieving a target of 30% by 2020. Taking 2017-18 as a reference year, the paper has studied GER of 10 nations US, UK, France, Germany, Brazil, China, Indonesia, India, South Africa, and Pakistan. It concludes that US has the highest GER at 88.2 %, followed by Germany 70.3%, France 65.6%, UK 60.6%, Brazil 51.3%, China 49.1%, Indonesia 36.4% and India 25.8% in 2017-18, 26.3% in 2018-19. But Government alone cannot meet this aim.

2. **Our Heterogeneous Education System:**

Educational institutions have faced a great challenge based on regional, rural-urban, rich-poor set-ups. Varieties of colleges, universities, technical institutions have produced and different types and quality of Education. Some of them are really imparting qualitative education although a few others are doing the dirtiest job. Thanks UGC, for publishing the list of such fake universities and Institutions indulging in educational malpractices.

3. **Mushrooming of Low-Quality Institutes:**

Mushrooming of the weak organization throughout the country is not good for higher education. These new colleges want capability and all parents and students almost have emerging cash. There is still a lot of enthusiasm and less instructional consistency.

4. **Interference of Political Factors:**

The majorities of institutions that offer education are controlled by powerful political leaders and then lead to changes in university organizations. They have set up their own student groups and promote the organization of students on a political basis. They use the enthusiasm of the students for personal profit. Students forget their own aspirations and start their political careers.

5. **Lack of Moral Values:**

The exponential growth and successive industrialization of science and technology have prompted relevance and challenge to our traditional ideals and morals. The unhappiness and rebellion of the younger generation is the result of a weakening moral framework.

6. **Less creative and innovative students:**

Students have no ethics in their students; only want markings in the topic and only investigations for the selection of employment. Students don't have imagination. We work hard but not creatively with the top-level students. They can't manufacture modern inventions enough.

7. **High-tech libraries:**

Colleges and universities must have an outstanding book collection. But online library must be useful for serious students to enhance intellectual analysis.

8. ***Economic Difficulties:***

This is among the most controversial changes placed on societies by the new structure of higher education. The majority of students come from normal classes and many of them cannot handle themselves with the basic needs of life. The high prices of essential commodities, an increasing population, economic problems, corruption, selfishness etc have been growing up day by day. So students also want part-time or full-time jobs to pay for their education spending and have focused employment and education at College/University. Now a day's economic hardship is increasing so many kinds of students faced with financial difficulties.

9. ***High place of Nepotism in Selections:***

In a process that includes vacancies at the higher level, durability performance and high professional qualifications are secondary. Cash, political links, and the great potential of the country then need to change course and look to private institutions and abroad.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

There are some suggestions and Expectations from Government, Industry, Educational Institutions, Parents and Students for improving quality of higher education-

1. ***Multidisciplinary Approach:***

In higher education, there must be a multidisciplinary approach such that learning cannot be limited to learners' individual subjects instead.

2. ***Foreign Collaboration:***

The government should encourage co-operation between Indian universities as well as top foreign institutes, and also connect national research laboratories to high-level research centres' for better quality and collaborative research.

3. ***Innovative Practices:***

New innovations provide immense opportunities to enhance every part of life. It provides economic development opportunities, improved wellness, improved infrastructure, increased learning, and socio-cultural advancements. Efforts are needed to improve the creative potential of the country, but efforts should be made to expand on current capabilities with a new understanding of the relationship between research progress and development.

4. ***Towards a New Vision:***

As other countries in the world, India recognizes both mankind and intellectual resources. So that mankind will face the evolutionary and technological challenges effectively and bring about an interconnected, physical, mental, creative, intelligent, ethical, aesthetical and spiritual future new kind of humanity and community.

5. ***High-Tech Libraries:***

There are a very large number of selection books in our university libraries, but all are not satisfactory. For serious study, a library has to be online and conducive. Indian universities should focus more on quality education equal to international conventions.

6. ***World Class Education:***

Indian government does not emphasize the improvement of education quality. India needs to pay attention to the international education level. Numerous national universities such as the USA, UK, China, etc. permit foreign students to prepare for higher education and even by correspondence courses in their respective countries. In about the same sense India's world-class universities will deliver international students' studies that benefit from the mechanism of worldwide globalization. In order to do this, its educational institutions shall follow standardized international curricula.

7. ***Mobilize resources:***

Students today are extremely technologically competent and get students equipped for a Smartphone app for a better life in modern society. Provide digital access from and beyond on campus to news, e-books, textbooks, magazines, newspapers, etc.

8. ***Quality of Education:***

The Indian government has established constitutional institutions to ensure education standard in India. Some educational institutes in India focus on providing global learning. The Indian government is also expanding attempts to develop more institutions that can provide better education in higher education. It can show that the efficiency of the constantly evolving educational community is strengthened and the learning process is enriched in order to enhance the student's experience.

9. ***Provision of adequate trained and qualified faculty:***

Before entering college, all teaching faculties have to be educated and trained properly before entering the university level.

10. ***Make the curriculum dynamic not dogmatic:***

The curriculum and framework for higher education students in our country are mostly outdated. Society has gone on with stale, dogmatic, and instructional staff. In order to instil dynamism, you have to have a degree course.

CONCLUSION

After independence, there has been an amazing increase in higher education institutions of learning in all disciplines. But still, India is the way behind in imparting world-class education. Today, India is one of the quickest developing countries of the world. Through the year

2023; the worldwide higher education marketplace is expected to develop at a compound annual growth rate of more than 12%. India's gross enrolment ratio (GER) in 2018-19 turned into 26.3% however still some distance from meeting the Ministry of Human Resource Development's target of achieving 32% GER through 2022. To gain and attain the future requirements there's an urgent need to relook on the Financial Resources, Education Policies, Access and Equity, Quality Standards, and dispose of issues and challenges.

We need an educational system that is modern/advanced, liberal, and can adapt to the changing demands. Indian higher education system and regulatory bodies should identify the key issues and quickly make policies to dispose of the challenges. Only one or two universities can't make much difference. If the authorities welcome such initiatives of our education system, we will be capable of fitting and compete with different countries and to gain the world's greatest economy.

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