

Growth Rate of Students' Enrolment in Higher Education – An Empirical Study of Punjab

Dr. Monika Sharma

Assistant Professor, P.G Dept. of Commerce and Business Management, Hindu College, Amritsar, Punjab, India

ABSTRACT

Higher education plays a significant role in the economic development of a country as it helps in fostering innovation, raising standard of living, creates a high quality workforce and provide a skilled and technical manpower to the industry. It is one of the important indicators of the success of an economy. Keeping in mind the role that higher education system plays, the current study has been designed to have an overview of the trend of enrolment of students at various levels of higher education in Punjab during the period 2011-12 to 2017-18 and to compare the same with that of India and top three states in terms of highest number of colleges viz. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka in order to understand that the model of which state can be followed by Punjab if at any level it lags behind the other states in terms of Compound Annual Growth Rate of enrolment in higher education.

Key Words: Higher Education, Compound Annual Growth Rate, Economic Development

INTRODUCTION

Education system of a country is one of the major indicators of the success of the economy apart from being an important asset of a country (Shiekh, Y.A.2017). Emphasizing the role and contribution of higher education in economic development, Drew Faust, an American educator, historian and first President of Harvard University stated that, "Higher education is the strongest, sturdiest ladder to increased socio-economic activity." Higher education has a significant impact on a country's economic development by fostering innovation and increasing skills, thereby assisting in raising the standard of living, apart from creating a high quality workforce and supporting business and industry through development of relevant skills.

GROWTH OF HIGHER EDUCATION (POST INDEPENDENCE)

There were only 20 Universities in the year 1947-48 and the number rose to 851 in the year 2017-18 whereas the number of colleges increased from 96 in the year 1947-48 to 41012 in the year 2017-18. Table 1 indicates the growth of number of colleges and universities in India post independence.

Table 1: Number of Universities and colleges in India (Post Independence)

YEAR	UNIVERSITIES	COLLEGES
1947-48	20	96
1950-51	28	578
1960-61	45	1819
1970-71	93	3227
1980-81	123	4738
1990-91	184	5748
2000-01	266	11140
2005-06	355	18064
2010-11	523	33023
2011-12	573	34852
2012-13	628	35525
2013-14	666	36634
2014-15	711	38498
2015-16	753	39071
2016-17	795	40026
2017-18	851	41012 (Figure as on March 31, 2018)

Source: 1. UGC and higher education in India. Annual reports;

2. FICCI & EY: Higher Education in India: Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012- 2017).

DATA BASE, CONCEPTS AND METHODOLOGY

- **Need of the Study:** The role of higher education discussed above makes it amply clear that for the development and growth of the economy of a country, its population must be educated. Thus, it becomes imperative to study the level of enrolment at various levels of higher education so as to have an understanding of the trend in enrolment.
- **Scope of the Study:** The present study is confined mainly to the enrolment in higher education in the state of Punjab. The student enrolment at various levels of higher education in Punjab has also been compared with that of India and top three states in terms of highest number of colleges viz. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- **Data Collection:** Secondary data has been collected from Reports of All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), Reports of University Grants Commission (UGC) and Five Year Plan documents.
- **Objectives of the Study:** The study has been designed to achieve the following objectives:
 - To study the student enrolment at various levels of higher education, that is, Ph.D, M.Phil, Post Graduate, Under Graduate, PG Diploma, Diploma, Certificate and Integrated Courses in Punjab.
 - To compare the student enrolment in Punjab with that of India and top three states in terms of highest number of colleges, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

- **Methodology:** After scanning relevant reports, required portions were extracted, tabulated and analyzed by calculating Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) to understand the trend of student enrolment at various levels of higher education. CAGR can be positive or negative. The positive values indicate accelerating trend whereas negative values indicate declining trend.

DATA TABULATION AND ANALYSIS:

The data for the purpose of analysis has been tabulated under the following heads:

1. Enrolment of students at Various levels of Higher Education in India

Table 1 indicates the enrolment of students at various levels of higher education in India. It depicts that enrolment in all the courses except M. Phil, Certificate and Integrated has increased over the period of study. However, the overall enrolment has declined from 37399388 in 2011-12 to 30152417 in 2017-18.

Table 2: Student Enrolment at Various levels of Higher Education in INDIA

Year Level	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Ph.D	81430	95425	107890	117301	126451	141037	161412
M.Phil	34154	30374	31380	33371	42523	43267	34109
Post Graduate	3367190	3448151	3822219	3853438	3917156	4007570	4114310
Under Graduate	23174950	23890309	25500325	27172346	27420450	28348197	29016350
PG Diploma	196159	194072	276502	215372	229559	213051	235263
Diploma	2071609	2207551	2285576	2507694	2549160	2612209	2707934
Certificate	184717	191871	187340	170245	144060	166617	177223
Integrated	241126	195777	173957	155422	141870	125002	94664
Grand Total	37399388	36642378	35705905	34584781	34211637	32336234	30152417

Source: Report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2017-18

2. Enrolment of students at Various levels of Higher Education in India

The enrolment of students of higher education in Punjab has been summarized in Table2 below. The data clearly indicates that enrolment in Certificate courses has declined over the period of study while in all other courses, the enrolment has shown an upward trend. Total enrolment has also improved over the period of study.

Table 3: Student Enrolment at Various levels of Higher Education in PUNJAB

Year Level	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Ph.D	1954	2118	2239	4000	4680	6843	6877
M.Phil	616	740	955	933	1226	1223	902
Post Graduate	86693	92945	106693	124788	113558	118695	117509
Under Graduate	588600	590545	610331	616617	611747	643459	688777
PG Diploma	2985	3663	4639	6507	7043	7648	7431
Diploma	101610	108044	107187	131918	131430	129493	126845
Certificate	1694	1954	1855	2108	1985	1878	1284

Integrated	414667	412078	427563	466434	457556	472859	479106
Grand Total	785693	808144	845334	892820	878479	917550	959536

Source: Report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2017-18

3. Enrolment of students at Various levels of Higher Education in Uttar Pradesh

The data of enrolment of students summarized in the Table 3 below indicates that the enrolment in M. Phil and Certificate courses has declined whereas in all the other courses, the enrolment is showing an upward trend over the period of study. Total enrolment has also grown from 4123757 in 2011-12 to 6455375 in 2017-18.

Table 4: Student Enrolment at Various levels of Higher Education in UTTAR PRADESH

Year \ Level	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Ph.D	7627	8588	10823	10888	11552	13227	15408
M.Phil	1376	1099	1325	1312	1304	872	860
Post Graduate	400644	402625	442885	471055	545110	592095	637473
Under Graduate	3573548	4079022	4539628	5290799	5144321	5224448	5446769
PG Diploma	8890	10816	11139	16635	18068	21777	19621
Diploma	48503	71993	107075	207571	224560	235322	260547
Certificate	74214	85359	84511	47362	36848	39960	42818
Integrated	8955	11900	14598	21298	21313	30270	31880
Grand Total	4123757	4671402	5211984	6066920	600376	615791	6455375

Source: Report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2017-18

4. Enrolment of students at Various levels of Higher Education in Maharashtra

Table below indicates that the enrolment of students in Diploma has declined over the period of study whereas all the other courses show an upward trend in terms of enrolment of students in higher education. Total enrolment in all the courses has also increased over the period of study.

Table 5: Student Enrolment at Various levels of Higher Education in MAHARASHTRA

Year \ Level	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Ph.D	6084	5683	7054	8624	9229	7528	9206
M.Phil	2145	2375	3030	2548	2900	2660	2421
Post Graduate	363408	321783	434350	432263	406625	433625	445783
Under Graduate	2765680	2299021	2636818	2878212	3168107	3190062	3314911
PG Diploma	16254	17126	14827	18578	25226	23499	19730
Diploma	382759	424023	412667	379840	357955	333361	315911
Certificate	6291	6129	6118	7440	7280	14652	11851
Integrated	3732	4685	4857	8650	9990	10922	11944
Grand Total	3546353	3080825	3519721	3736155	3987312	4016309	4131757

Source: Report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2017-18

5. Enrolment of students at Various levels of Higher Education in Karnataka

Table below indicates that enrolment in all the courses except M.Phil, Post Graduate, PG Diploma and Diploma courses have increased over the period of study. Total enrolment has also increased from 1760964 in 2011-12 to 1943856 in 2017-18.

Table 6: Student Enrolment at Various levels of Higher Education in KARNATAKA

Year \ Level	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Ph.D	5382	4760	6245	7247	7424	6630	9103
M.Phil	792	748	629	574	592	527	527
Post Graduate	235226	249713	266384	227109	200909	203889	209262
Under Graduate	1251495	1344239	1391210	1419201	1420697	1432755	1502926
PG Diploma	9790	7519	8842	7368	5546	5655	6212
Diploma	247446	240533	214184	220207	206680	205872	200062
Certificate	3623	3994	4261	4261	4329	3713	3686
Integrated	4432	5445	7052	6657	7416	8042	6991
Grand Total	1760964	1859579	1902186	1896905	1857946	1871294	1943856

Source: Report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2017-18

6. Comparative Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of Enrolment of Students at Various Levels of Higher Education

Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of enrolment of students at various levels of higher education has been summarized in Table 5 below. The table indicates that CAGR of enrolment of students is highest in the state of Punjab for Ph.D., M.Phil and PG Diploma whereas CAGR of student' enrolment in Post Graduate, Under Graduate, Diploma and Integrated Courses is highest in Uttar Pradesh. CAGR of the total enrolment is also highest in UP. If we compare the status of Punjab with that of India as a whole in terms of CAGR of student' enrolment at various levels of higher education, the figures for Punjab are better for all the courses except Under Graduate, Diploma, Certificate and Integrated Courses. CAGR of the total enrolment of students at the various levels of higher education in Punjab is also more than that of India and it stands at second position after UP amongst the states under study.

Table 7: Compound Annual Growth Rate of Enrolment at Various Levels of Higher Education

Country/ State \ Level	India	Punjab	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra	Karnataka
Ph.D	12.08%	23.33%	12.43%	7.14%	9.15%
M.Phil	- 0.02%	6.56%	-7.53%	2.04%	-6.56%
Post Graduate	3.4%	5.2%	8.05%	3.46%	-1.93%
Under Graduate	3.82%	2.65%	7.28%	3.07%	3.10%
PG Diploma	3.08%	16.42%	14.09%	3.28%	-7.3%
Diploma	4.56%	3.76%	32.34%	-3.15%	-3.47%
Certificate	- 0.69%	-4.51%	-8.76%	11.12%	0.29%
Integrated	-14.43%	2.44%	23.57%	21.4%	7.89%
Grand Total	-3.53%	3.39%	7.76%	2.58%	1.66%

Summary and Conclusion:

It becomes amply clear from the above discussion that although the CAGR of total enrolment of students at various levels of higher education in Punjab is better than that of India, but if we compare the same on the basis of various courses, then the state lags behind in case of Under Graduate, Diploma, Certificate and Integrated Courses. Also the status of Punjab in terms of CAGR of student enrolment in higher education is less than that of the CAGR in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka in all the courses except for Ph.D, M.Phil and PG Diploma. In order to ensure the economic development of Punjab, it is of utmost importance to identify the reasons of low CAGR of student' enrolment in higher education in the state. The strengths of the system and policies of higher education in other states specially the model being followed in Uttar Pradesh must be understood, so that the same could be imbibed in the Punjab's higher education system.

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