

PRESENT SCENARIO AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Education is one of the significant factors instrumental to the development of a country. It should be transformed to the needs of the time and changing scenario of the world. In particular, the higher education and the mode of its delivery should be tuned time and again for greater development and changes to cope with such challenges. In this backdrop, given the present scenario of Indian higher education, there needs a paradigm shift in the higher education system. The higher education in India is, in general, seemed to be bleak since post-independence and raises several questions still unanswered. The unplanned expansion of higher education opportunities, spiraling trend of the educated unemployed, commercialization of education, the imbalance of quantity with quality, ignorance equity and excellence, are some of the pertinent cases in point which pose continuous threats to higher education of India. In this light, the new reforms in education to come must address all the above concerns in higher education and involve innovative modalities of how to classify and reclassify information, how to look at problems from new and different directions and at last how to bring about new future society to meet the challenges to come. To meet the futuristic prospects of Indian higher education, teachers should not be spared in such meaningful reforms since teachers provide with the best trained manpower for a nation such as technologists, scientists, doctors, engineers, policy makers, businessmen etc. It is therefore teachers too should be empowered as a part of reforms for Indian higher education meeting the growing demands of liberalization and globalization going on in the world. Hence, the emerging Indian society needs to make the system of their higher education must innovative and futuristic to face the changing demands of the modern Indian Society.

Keyword : Scenario, Higher Education, prospects.

Introduction

Higher education in India has experienced phenomenal expansion since independence. India has produced scientists, engineers, technologists, doctors, teachers and managers who are in great demand all over the world. Now it is one of the top ten countries in our industrial and technological capacity, because of the significant contribution of manpower and tools provided by higher education, especially, technical education. Methods of higher education also have to be appropriate to the needs of four pillars of education, learning to learn, learning to do, learning

to be and learning to become. (Ganihar &Bhat 2006) Student centered education and the employment of dynamic method of education will require from teachers new attitudes and skills (Saravanakumar &Mohan 2008).

India has already entered into the era of knowledge explosion. It has proved its tremendous potential by its performance in nuclear and space domains. In the coming few decades will be heralded by space craft, satellites, internets and others offshoots of scientific enquires. The success story of the post independent India turns out bleak when the question of quality is raised. Higher education has been finding it difficult to meet the challenges of unplanned expansion, educated unemployment, uneven growth, commercialization of education, financial crises, teacher burnout and the digital divide of quantity versus quality, equity versus excellence, and creativity versus conformity which are posing continuous threats to higher education. The student of today learning a specific content of information will find to his amazement that he is not prepared to face the life which he has to live for the next five decades because the knowledge furnished with, has become outdated long back.

Higher Investment in Higher Education:

The growth of higher education has led to the higher investment in higher education. A large number of private colleges and universities cropped up and are in the recent years providing quality education from degree to doctoral degree in the variety of fields. The opportunities for higher education have been recently due to the private participation. As soon as India signed GATs foreign universities started to enter the country and now there are more than 100 western universities established in the country. Similarly, India is in the process of setting her universities in the foreign lands.

Higher Education Hub

India is attracting a large number of foreign students to their central, state and private universities and colleges from several parts of the world. Asian and western students find India a place of higher education hub due to the fact that the education provided here is inexpensive, higher quality and in the learner friendly environment. This trend evinces that Indian higher education has more potentialities to cater to the need of growing global demand. It is high time the UGC on the one hand has to encourage private participation in awarding quality and inexpensive higher degrees in the multi-disciplinary domains to attract even more foreign students and on the other hand, the establishing world class schools of higher education will prevent the students, the younger generation in particular, from being attracted by foreign institutions. The unconditional co-operation in curriculum development, preparation of instructional materials, implementation of innovative practices, use of new technologies, exchange of experts and promotion of collaborative research are the need of the hour.

Improving of quality of higher education

The quality society can be produced only through quality education. In this line, the higher education of India needs mechanisms to improve the quality of education provided through universities and other degree awarding institutions. The mechanism should pay attention on refining, diversifying, and upgrading higher education and research programmes.

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