

# COMMERCIALIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA – A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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## Abstract

Education plays a pivotal role in the development of any country. The education has to mould itself to the ever-changing world scenario. The world has witnessed a commercialization in every facet including the education sector which is known as a noble one, India is no exception to this. India has a very rich history of education. The antiquity of Indian education is reflected in the roots of its diverse culture. The Indian higher education system has seen a tremendous expansion since independence. The commercialization in education sector of India has put a price tag on learning and knowledge and it also deterred the role of knowledge in education. It resulted in a scenario in which all the genres of the society are so obsessed with education that it has lost the real essence of education. The present paper provides the better understanding of the current scenario of commercialization of higher education in India. It also throws a valuable insight on the aftereffects of commercialization on human capital of the country.

**Keywords:** Higher education, Commercialization, Human capital.

## Introduction

In a developing competitive world everyone knows the importance of education which is needed for the better life for an individual and the nation both. To achieve revolution there is one and only instrument which is education. The education has more apparent impact in development of individuals and as well as the skill of the nation.

The primary objective of education is to build human capital by providing value based education which allows people to contribute in development of society and nation. Indian education system comprises three broad segments viz., schooling, higher education and vocational education. The government participation is less compared to private participation in higher education. The private participation is increasing year by year specially in professional courses like engineering and medical colleges.

## Commercialization of Education

Commercialization of education transforms the education into profit making commodity. Commercialization of education is the result of growing demand for education due to increase in opportunities in other countries. An increase in private players' provision of education led to privatization of education, which resulted in higher proportion of private actors in the education system. Through this, methods and approaches from the commercial sectors were introduced in the field of education.

The demand for quality education and the knowledge about importance of education in India has grown drastically after the economic reforms which led to the industrialization of education and thereby paved the way to private persons and institutions to play a dominant role in commercialization of education in India.

## Current Scenario

Today's education has serious and adverse effects on the society as most of the private educational institutions operate with the sole objective of making money. Since the enrollment of students increasing in the higher education there is a good opportunity for the institutions to earn more money. More often students get cheated since the rules and regulations of the institutions were set with the motive of making profits.

The educational reforms in India have led to the commercialization of education in recent days. It is bringing the financial elements in all aspects education including enrollment to schools, colleges and universities. As an impact this is changing the traditional concepts of education in the society, the student teacher relationship and attitude towards imparting knowledge. The enrollment in higher education has drastically increased over the last decade. During the year 2016-2017 the students' enrollment in higher education to private institutions has increased to 18.5 million compared to 7.5 million in 2006-07. Whereas enrollment to central universities and state universities have just shown a increase of 0.9 and 5 million respectively. This clearly indicates that private universities and institutions have taken the lead in the race with regard to enrollment.

## After effects of commercialization

Commercialization of education has both positive and negative aspects as in any other phenomenon. But the measures have to be taken to overcome the negative aspects of the same.

### Positive aspects

1. Private institutions can meet the demand of increase in quality education in India
2. To meet the increasing demand to meet the needs of the students population higher education is essential for government to privatize higher education in the country since the government participation is less in higher education
3. The private universities enjoy full freedom as there would be no political intervention and it would be beneficial for the students and universities
4. The private universities don't need to take permission from the state to try and implement new techniques
5. Private collages affiliated to universities would run the chances of being removed of their affiliation if they are engaged in unethical practices.

### Negative effects

1. It affected on right to access to education.
2. The high cost of education has created the problem for common man, The common man cannot reach the education due to high cost of education.
3. Social and national needs are replaces by money power.
4. This prevents the poor, socially backward communities from right to education.
5. The institutions are motivated to earn money and not by social and educational interest.
6. Students are more exploited through illegal and unethical collection of unauthorized collections of payments.
7. The methods corporate method of teaching suits only for rich learners.
8. Who enrolls in education institutions by money power it's not difficult for them to manipulate the result of examination.
9. Who enters in education by spending lakhs of rupees are bond to adopt unethical and illegal means to earn money in their life also.
10. When the independence is given to private institutions it would lead to monopolization of higher education.
11. The privatization of institution leads to high fee structure capitation fee exploitation of professors.

### Suggestions

1. There is a need for subsidization for the interest rate of education loan based on family income.
2. There is a need for financing of education for students those who are from low income households.
3. The state should take the responsibility of providing quality education all levels and in all regions.

4. State should finance the public universities and institutions to improve quality of education and research.
5. There should be control over institution which promoting commercialization.
6. Legal frame work should to be imposed for the benefit of economically poor and weaker section of the society.

## Conclusion

Education is a fundamental and universal right of any individual both within and outside the formal education system and this act as a lever to other human rights. The education also plays a major role in strengthening the social bonds. The commercially oriented institutions are proliferating by risking the objective of quality education for all as education is no longer considered as public service but as a commodity. The inefficiency and the lack of transparency in the management of education expenditure make the commercialization of education easy. To curb this menace of commercialization the regulating authorities have to come up with the measures so that there is a significant mobilization of public resources for education and to refrain from taking any measures for encouraging privatization of education.

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