

# An Overview of Higher Education System in India: Importance and Development

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## Abstract

The research study explain about the overview of higher education system plays an important key role in the country's overall development which includes creates income and employment development, empowerment of women, skill development, reduction of poverty, orientation programmes for weaker sections of peoples, rural development, new technology improvement, industrial, social, economic etc. Indian higher education system is one of the third biggest in the global level. The performance of Indian higher educational institutes namely colleges and universities in the present year is to deliver quality-based education systems in the field of education, research etc., to empower youth for self-sustainability. This research article relates the key importance and development that India is currently facing in higher education system and also relates many initiatives taken by the Union Government to meet those importance and development.

**Keywords:** Higher Education, System of Higher Education, Importance, and Development,

## Introduction

Higher education refers to several things to various person in the country. This study related about higher education system in terms of level, it refers to increase higher educational qualification by the teaching-learning process in the higher educational institutes like colleges and universities. Besides, it informs knowledge, develops the student's ability and also give him/her a wide-ranging perspective of around the global level. Higher education develops input to the importance and development of industry and also perceived as an opportunity to participate in the development process of the individual through a flexible education mode. Higher education focuses on jobs opportunities, self-life of skills, and changing learning models in the digital era.

## Objectives of the Study

1. To study the importance and development of higher education system in India.
2. To analyse the trends of growth and development of higher education sector in India.

## Methodology of the Study

The research study mainly based on secondary data. The secondary data were collected from various annual reports of All India Survey of Higher Education (2010-11 to 2016-17), Government of India, World Bank Report, UGC, MHRD, various journals and articles, and websites etc. The research study was statistical tools carried out by percentages, Mean, Annual Growth Rate (AGR), and Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR).

## Higher Education System in India

Higher education system is the third biggest in the global. The University Grants Commission (UGC) is its major governing body and also oversees accreditation for higher learning and job orientation programmes in the college and university levels in India. It has expanded at a fast pace by adding more than 20,000 colleges and more than 8 million students in a decade and as of present, India has more than 800 universities, with a break up of Central, State, Deemed and Private universities along with several institutions started and working/ functioning under the State Act, and Institutes of National Importance, which include AIIMS, IIT's and NIT's among others. Other importance institutions include Government Degree Colleges and Private Degree Colleges, including exclusive women's degree colleges, working under these universities and institutions. Colleges may be Autonomous, that means empowered to study their own degrees, up to the Ph. D level in some cases/ Non-Autonomous, in which case their examinations are under the administration of the university to which they are affiliated; in either case, but, degrees are awarded in the name of the university rather than the college.

The importance in the tertiary level of education lies on science and technology. Indian educational institutions by 2004 involved of a large number of technology institutes. Distance learning and open education is also a feature of the Indian higher education system, and is looked after by the Distance Education Council. Indira Gandhi National Open University is the major university in the world by number of students, having about 3.5 million students across the sphere. Nearly institutions of the country, like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institute of Technology (NITs), Indian Institute of Science, Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), University of Mumbai and Jawaharlal Nehru University have been worldwide acclaimed for their standard of education.

## Importance of Higher Education in India

Higher education is a very key important indicator for economic, social, cultural and political development of many country. In present period of knowledge-driven economy and learning societies, both formal and informal education is performing an increasingly key energetic performance in promoting economic unity, social cohesion, growth and development, sustainable development, and a culture of peace

and universal citizenship. India since the initial days of independence has always engrossed on improving the literacy rate in the country. At present, the government runs several schemes to promote Higher Education in India. It has opened up new challenges and opportunities for higher educational institutions – whether public and private.

- Higher education as the production of skilled human resources
- Higher education as training for a research career
- Higher Education as the efficient management of teaching provision
- Higher education as a matter of extending life-chances

Higher education plays a key vital role in the realization of country's strange potential and aspirations for economic and technological progression. It is potential and its connotations for individual advancement call for an extraordinary demand of higher education among country's young youth.

### Higher Education System in India

The higher education system is including to institutions are categorized of 3 and they are - University, College and Stand-Alone Institutions. According to report of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) in 2015, it is evidence from the here are 799 Universities, 39071 colleges and 11923 Stand Alone Institutions. In details of review the growth and development of higher education in the country in the post-independence time, which has been rapid and sizeable. India's Higher Education System is one of the biggest in the global with 611 universities, 31,324 colleges with 521,843 teachers catering to 1, 36, 41, 808 students Although the system looks outwardly humungous, it includes just 12 per cent of the 18–24 age group, thus leaving out the mainstream of 88 per cent; some anomalies plague the system during the 2017-18. These range from lack of outreach to the majority, inability to meet future demands of children who are now getting compulsory schooling (under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan or universalization of primary education) that would require an estimated 2,000 universities and 60,000 colleges with 12 lakh teachers and 10 lakh administrative staff. These challenges enlarge with increasing aspirations of a growing population, especially of young.

### Different Types of Higher Education System

**Undergraduate/ Bachelor's Education Level:** The undergraduate course i.e. the Bachelor's degree is obtained after three years of study in the case of arts (B.A), science (B.Sc) and commerce (B.Com). UG courses in professional subjects, for the Bachelor's degree, like Engineering (B.E, B.Tech), Medicine (M.B.B.S), Dentistry (M.D) and Pharmacy (B.Pharm) range from 4 to 5 and a half years.

**Post-Graduate/Master's Education Level:** Post-graduate courses in Arts, Science, Commerce, Engineering and Medicine are 2-year courses for the award of a Master's degrees. Master's program can be pursued only after completion of a bachelor's degree.

**Doctoral Studies/ Ph.D Education Level:** M.Phil. Program is of one and-half year to two years in duration. PhD program is for a minimum of 3 years and can take several years. These courses involve research work under a chosen/allotted guide, leading to thesis submission and viva-voce. Successful completion of PhD course designates the title of 'Doctor' to the individual.

**Certificate and Diploma Programmes:** In addition to the degree programmes, a number of diploma and certificate programs are also available in universities. Their range is wide and they cover anything from poetics to computers. Some of them are undergraduate diploma programs and others postgraduate programs. The duration varies from course to course and program to program a usually ranges between one year and three years.

### Growth and Development of Higher Education in India

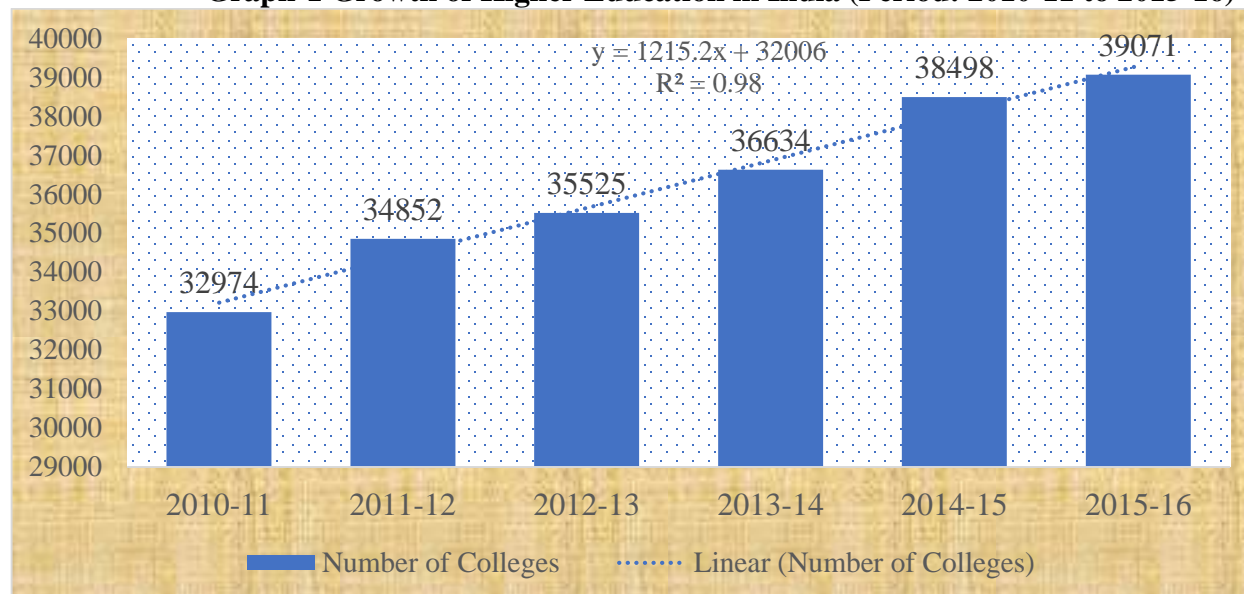
Higher education system has supplied many of the global best talent and knowledge in the country. It can help to creates of employment generation in the technical sector, and those who are earning knowledge of higher studies. The number of State Private Universities improved from 14 in 2008 to 235 during the 2016. These institutions are endorsed by the State legislature but funded by private promoters. In eight years, India added over 18,000 new colleges. These teaching colleges (public or private) are affiliated with universities which conduct tests and awards degrees. According to report of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) in 2015, it is evidence from the here are 799 Universities, 39071 colleges and 11923 Stand Alone Institutions. Total enrolment in higher education has been estimated to be 34.6 million with 18.6 million boys and 16 million girls. Girls constitute 46.2% of the total enrolment. Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education in India is 24.5%, which is calculated for 18-23 years of age group. GER for male population is 25.4% and for females, it is 23.5%. For Scheduled Castes, it is 19.9% and for Scheduled Tribes, it is 14.2% as compared to the national GER of 24.5%.

The number of universities and similar institutions listed on AISHE portal has increased from 621 during the 2010-11 to 799 during the year 2015-16. by almost 30%. While the number of colleges has increased from 32,974 in 2010-11 to 39,071 during the 2015-16 by about 18% as presented in the Table-1.

**Table-1 Growth of Higher Education in India (Period: 2010-11 to 2015-16)**

Year	Number of Colleges	AGR	Number of Universities	AGR
2010-11	32974	-	621	-
2011-12	34852	5.70	642	3.38
2012-13	35525	1.93	667	3.89
2013-14	36634	3.12	723	8.40
2014-15	38498	5.09	760	5.12
2015-16	39071	1.49	799	5.13
<b>CAGR</b>	<b>3.42</b>		<b>5.42</b>	

**Source:** Government of India (2016), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, All India Survey on Higher Education (2015-16), New Delhi.

**Graph-1 Growth of Higher Education in India (Period: 2010-11 to 2015-16)**

The above table and graph show that the growth and development of higher education in India during the period from 2010-11 to 2015-16, in terms of compound annual growth rate. During the 2010-12, the number of colleges is 32974 which increased to 39071 during the 2015-16. The AGR for the number of colleges is 5.70 per cent in 2011-12, it has changed to positive growth of 1.49 per cent in 2015-16. The number of universities is also increased during the year of 2010-11 (621), which increased to 799 in 2015-16. The AGR for the number of universities is 3.38 per cent in 2011-12, it has changed to 5.13 per cent in 2015-16. The CAGR for the number of colleges and universities is 3.42 per cent and 5.42 per cent respectively.

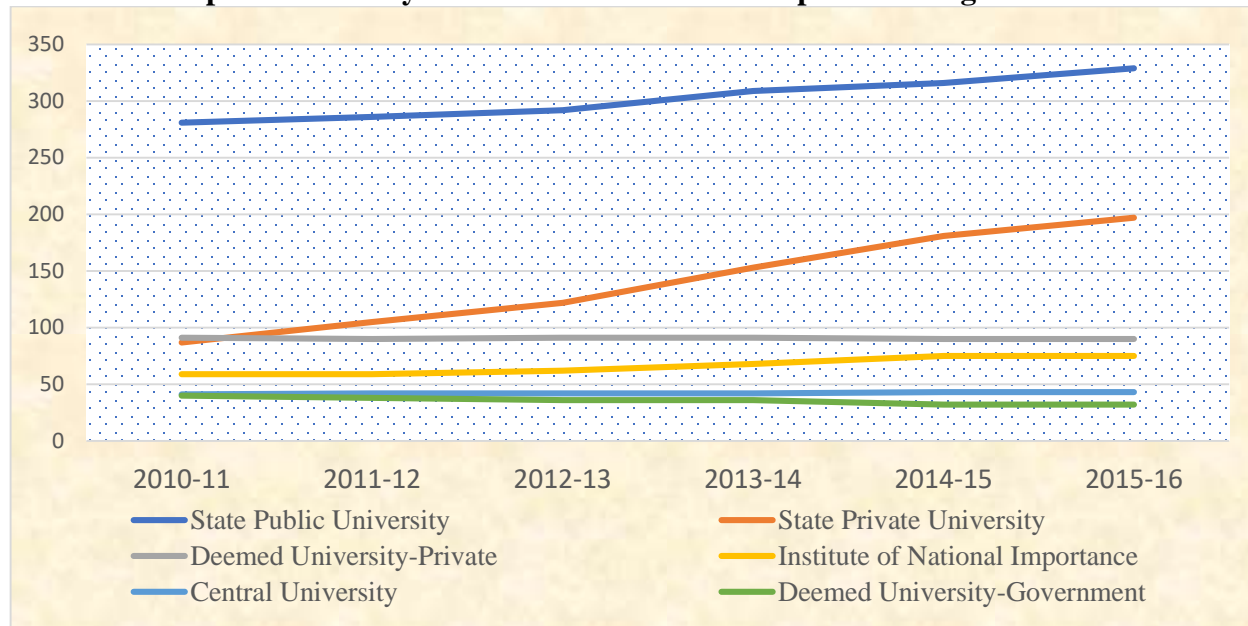
### Universities-wise Growth of Higher Education in India

The details of analysis of university-wise of higher education system in the country, the increase in State Private and State Public Universities are very high as revealed below in Table-2.

**Table-2 University-wise of Growth and Development of Higher Education in India (Period: 2010-11 to 2015-16)**

Type of University	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Mean	CAGR
State Public University	281	286	292	309	316	329	<b>302.17</b>	<b>3.32</b>
State Private University	87	105	122	153	181	197	<b>140.83</b>	<b>18.52</b>
Deemed University-Private	91	90	91	91	90	90	<b>90.50</b>	<b>-0.16</b>
Institute of National Importance	59	59	62	68	75	75	<b>66.33</b>	<b>5.92</b>
Central University	41	42	42	42	43	43	<b>42.17</b>	<b>0.89</b>
Deemed University-Government	40	38	36	36	32	32	<b>35.67</b>	<b>-4.55</b>

**Source:** Government of India (2016), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, All India Survey on Higher Education (2015-16), New Delhi.

**Graph-2 University-wise of Growth and Development of Higher Education in India**

The above table-2 and graph-2 explain about the university-wise of growth and development of higher education in India during the period between 2010-11 and 2015-16. During the 2010-11, the state public university is highest number of universities have among the universities in the country. It has been the number of universities is 281 in 2010-11, which increased to 329 in 2015-16 and the CAGR for state public university is 3.32 per cent. The state private university is 87 in 2010-11, which increase to 197 in 2015-16. During the 2010-11, deemed university private is 91, which has decreased to 90 in 2015-16. Institute of national importance is 59 and it has increased to 75 during the period between 2010-11 and 2015-16 respectively. The central university from 41 to 43 universities in 2010-12 and 2015-16 respectively. During the 2010-11, Deemed university government of 40, which decreased to 32 in 2015-16. The above table-2 details of the mean and CAGR for the university wise of higher education in India.

## Conclusion

It may be concluded that the higher education system is very important role in the overall development like social, economically, empower, culturally, politically etc. It can be in a dire essential to improve the quality and transparency of its higher education institutions on students, economy, and society. The dramatic growth Indian higher education has witnessed. However, this expansion has come at the cost of quality which in turn has resulted in many students graduating with credentials without any job relevant skillsets. India holds an important place in the global education industry. The country has more than 1.4 million schools with over 227 million students enrolled and more than 36,000 higher education institutes. India has one of the biggest higher education systems in the global. Though, there is still a lot of potential for further development in the education system. This research paper relates that the recent growth and development of higher education and it is a very significance role in the overall development.

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