

## Higher Education System In India: Emerging Issues And Challenges

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### Abstract

*Higher education is the source or feeder system in all works of life and therefore supplies the much-needed human resources in managing, planning, design, teaching and research. The advancements in scientific, technological sector and economic augmentation of a country are mainly reliant on higher education system. From the significant factors Education is one of the basic instruments to the development of a country. It should be transformed to the needs of the time and changing scenario of the world. The opportunities provided by this to seriously reflect upon the cultural, economic, spiritual and moral issues facing civilization. The need of India is for more competent and skilled people to force our economic growth. For the development of India as an education core or to become a flourishing partner in universal economy, its mandatory to qualitatively reinforce the education system in general and higher education system with research and management in particular. The main focus of this paper is on the overall performance of higher education system in India. Higher education system in India plays numerous roles. It is of surprising significance to many and reforms are often seen as considerable threats to social measures that provide profit to dominant groups. We try to find out the initiatives taken by the government to raise level of education system. This paper aims to identify emerging issues and challenges in the field of Higher Education system in India. Finally the paper concludes here is need of plans requires solutions that combine, employers and youth need of Expectations of from various stakeholders Students, Industry, Educational Institutions, Parents and Government.*

**KEY WORDS:** Higher Education, Financing, Issues, challenges

### INTRODUCTION

For all the developing countries like India Higher Education system is very important tool and for the encouragement to increasing the human progress. Since independence Higher education system in India has practiced phenomenal extension. All over the world, India has formed doctors, engineers, teachers, scientists, technologists and managers who are in great demand all over the world. India is one of the top ten countries in technological and industrial capability, because of the significant contribution of Higher Education system for the development of tools and human resource development especially in technical education. India has already entered into the era of comprehension explosion. The tremendous potential also proved by it with its performance in nuclear and space domains. The opportunities provided by this to seriously reflect upon the cultural, economic, spiritual and moral issues facing civilization. The specialized knowledge and skilled persons also provided by Higher Education for the development of nation. In the coming years, India will have world's largest set of young population (Sudha, 2013). The growth in youth population can be a great positive feature if prospective employability is brought to execution. On the other hand, if we fail to provide both the education and employment then it will be a negative aspect for Indian economic growth. Education is a necessary tool for achieving sustainability. The Education Commission 1964-66 stated the role of education in economic and social makeover through a statement- the solidity of a nation is created in its class rooms. Education carves human assets which is the core of economic growth and assumes that the externalities generated by human capital are the source of self supporting economic progression.

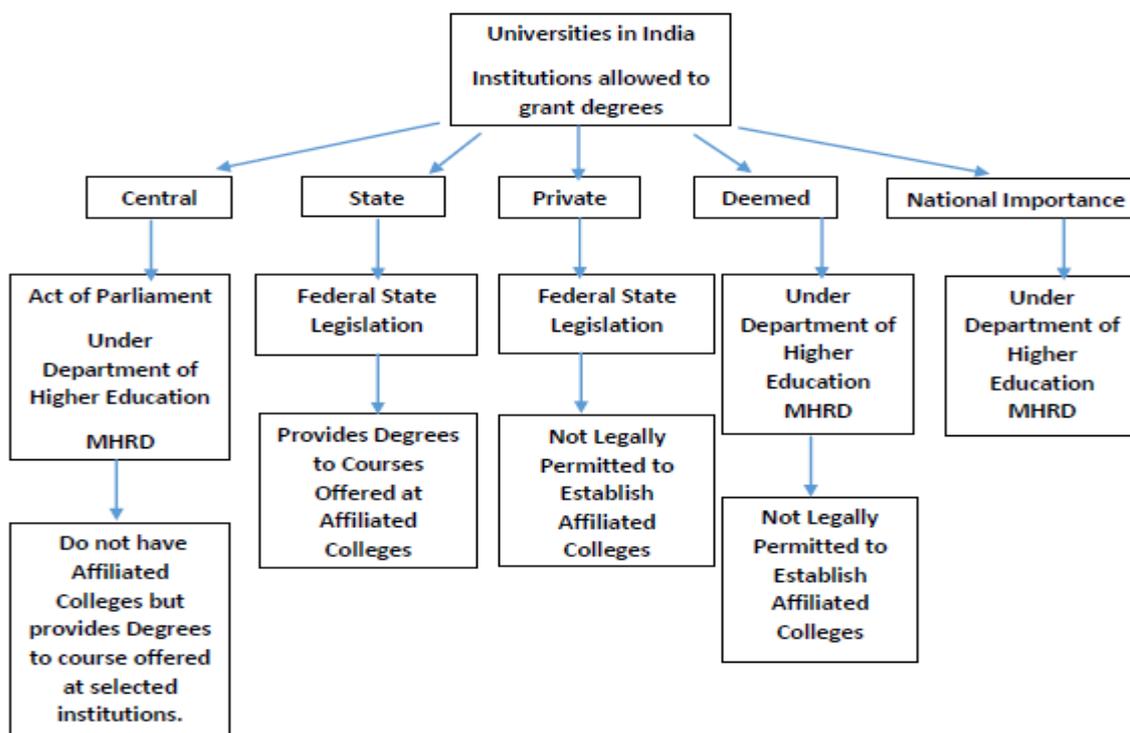
### RESEARCH STATEMENT

Higher Education system in India: Emerging Issues and Challenges

## OBJECTIVES

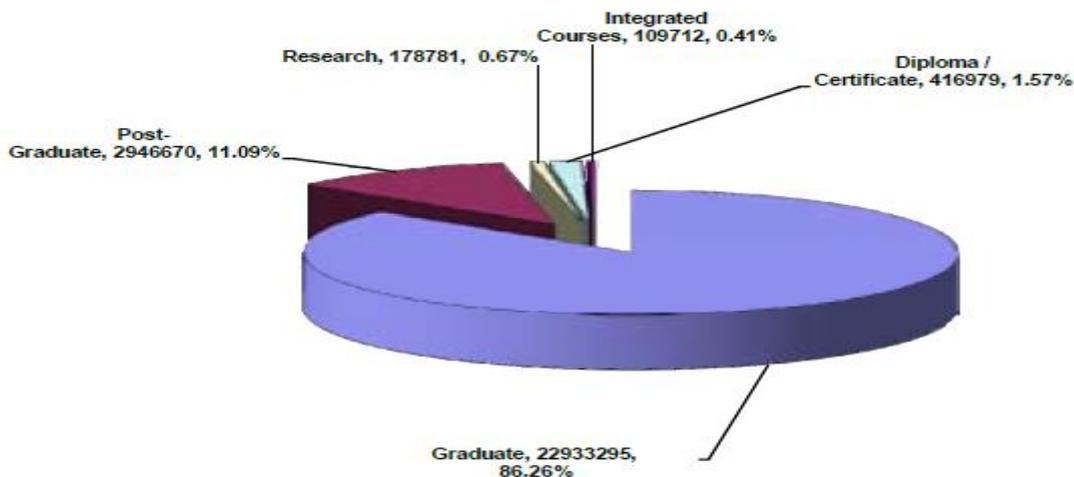
1. To analyse the current scenario of higher education system in India
2. To study the of total student enrolment in Higher Education
3. To identify the Emerging issues of higher education system in India
4. To identify the Emerging Challenges of higher education system in India
5. The suggestions for improving quality of higher education system in India

## CURRENT SCENARIO OF HIGHER EDUCATION



**Source:** Centre for Public Policy Research (Dhanuraj & Kumar, 2015)

The above figure is showing the overall Universe of the higher education system in India. At the time of independence, there were only 20 universities and 500 colleges in the country with 2.1 lakh students in the higher education system. But, there has been an exceptional growth in all these numbers after independence. Now, it is a recorded fact that there is an increase of 40 times in the number of Degree awarding Universities/ Institutes, 82 times enhancement in the number of higher education institutions and the students enrolment has increased to over 127 times in the formal higher education system rather to the figures of Independent Year of India. The exceptional growth in enrolment of higher education system would not have been possible without the expansion in the number of higher learning institutions, both colleges and universities in particular, and expansion in intake capacity of various courses. The increase in numbers of higher education institutions and enrolment indicate that the target of 30% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) set for the end of XII Plan (2017) will be achieved (Government of India, 2015). The following figure is showing the level-wise enrolment of students in universities colleges and affiliated colleges.



**Source:** Level-wise enrolment of students in university colleges and in affiliated colleges (Government of India, 2015)

### EMERGING ISSUES

India faces today a number of problems pertaining to illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, crisis of moral and spiritual values and ethics. But in the last few years the stakeholders of education system i.e. every individual a parent, a teacher, administrator or country itself is concerned with the crisis of student unrest is as under (Avhad, 2013):

1 Most of the students are participating in demonstrations, strikes, mass bunks, mass meetings, drop outs, setting libraries on fire, damaging infrastructures of their institute, taking part in ragging like activities on campus. These are the issues which are emerging for student's unrest.

2. Economic difficulties: The majority of students come from the ordinary class and the most of them are unable to provide for their minimum necessities of life. Economic difficulties have arisen due to the rising prices, student's routine of wasting money on luxuries. Most of the students are doing part time jobs in order to pay for their educational expenses and must split their interest between a job and university career. These are some of the reasons of students' turbulence. It is very difficult to elaborate all the causes of student unrest as they cover a wide spectrum of spheres.

3. The student in modern society is one of the important parts for social change. The student of today is breaking away from the civilization and society, new culture and new thinking – Gandhi-giri for Gandhi's philosophy, Anna-giri for Anna Hajare's anticorruption undertaking is coming into subsistence on the campus.

4. Glamour which is on the campus reasonable or not for that purpose our students are ready to go beyond extreme.

5. The generation of students in technological world has arrived and their increased potential and aspiration for techno based learning cannot be overlooked or ignored and therefore, maintenance rapidity with this new generation learners is arising as one of the most important issues in Higher Education.

6. The concept of useful and helpful leadership in higher education system needs to be thoroughly innovated to be able to effectively face the new challenges which are arising today.

7. The poor performance of the higher education institutions in the field of research- It has been observed that India shows deprived status in research, extension and development, research work projects running in our country is very less as compared to other developed or developing countries.

8. Low costs on Higher Education figures related to expenses on higher education is not very much satisfactory as per need.

9. Status of Higher Education in India

Though the India's higher education system is third largest in the world but still it has many issues like:

- I. The higher education system access is still constrained to a small segment of the society.
- II. Low public spending on higher education as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).
- III. Large rural-urban division in access
- IV. Lack of good faculty and poor infrastructure are required to be focused in on the proposed action plan in Higher Education system in India (Samarawickrema, 2009).

## EMERGING CHALLENGES

**Globalized economy**, the proficiency and the quality of our educational product have to meet the world standards of higher education. Globalization and modernization is succeeding so quickly that we have no substitute rather than to accept the reality and that the Higher Education has been playing critical job in preparing ourselves for task.

**Heterogeneous education system**, which is based on geographical, rural-urban, rich-poor set up, has posed in great confront for the educational institutions. Varieties of higher education institutions that is colleges, universities, technical institutions have enhanced and developed quality of Education. Only few of them are really imparting qualitative education while a few others are doing the fake job. Thanks to UGC, for publishing the list of such a fake higher education Institutions involving in educational malpractices. Another challenge that Higher Education has to face is the **teaching of English in the multilingual milieu**. Language has been accepted as a major vehicle for conveying thoughts and feelings and sharing our experiences and establishing relationship in the society, the teaching of languages in general and the teaching of languages of training in particular is taken for granted which is unacceptable in the multilingual setting of modernized world. Therefore, the use of languages rather than English in higher education needs to be viewed innovatively. Most important of all, there is a need to progress language proficiency in general.

**Interference of political factors**: Most of the higher education Institutions, imparting education are owned by the leading political leaders, they are playing key role in leading bodies of the higher education institutions. They have established their own youths and promote students' association on political basis. They try to abuse the students' energy for their political purposes. The students forget their own objectives, standards of living and begin to build up their careers in politics.

**Lack of Moral values**: In this modernized era the rapid growth of science and technology and consequent privatization has caused a risk to our old moral values, ethics and beliefs. The younger generation's unhappiness and revolution is the reason of a decomposing system of our moral values (Owlia & Aspinwall, 1996).

**Economic Difficulties**: The majority of students are coming from the average classes; many of students are unable to provide the minimum threshold demands of life for themselves. Economic miseries have grown due to the rising prices, unemployment, increasing population, shortage of food supply, corruption; selfish, misleading attitude etc. students are doing part time jobs in order to pay for their educational everyday expenditure and must split their interest between a job and College/University education. Earn while learn scheme cannot effectively support student to look economic challenges.

**Privatization**: In the present situation, privatization of higher education system is seems that a hatchling but welcome trend and is crucial to uphold flexibility, creativity and quality. The cost-effective trail of liberalization and universalisation demands it. Both public and private institutions in India work all together. Near about of 50 per cent of the higher education in India is imparted through private institutions, mainly unaided or self financed involving the high cost. However, the situation is not so simple. Private providers, in the interest of maximizing profit, have every incentive to 'minimize costs' by compromising on the quality of education provided in their institutions. Last but not least, quality of teaching staff is one of the considerable issues for higher education sector to sustain in the future. Former, they were dedicated to their students for

both subjects and to their profession. Today, high salaries are available but the commitment is less. Thus, it is the need of the hour to free the higher education system from unnecessary constraints and political interference.

**Inadequate facilities and infrastructure:** In India, many of the universities don't have adequate infrastructure or facilities to teach students. Even many private universities are running courses without classrooms. Internet and Wi-Fi facility is still out of reach of many students.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION**

Some Suggestions and Expectations are there for improving quality of higher education by Students, Parents, Educational Institutions, Industry and Government.

**Student-Centred Education and Dynamic Methods:** The higher education system methods also have to be suitable to the needs of learning to be, learning to learn, learning to become and learning to do. The skilled teachers with new attitudes are required for student-centred education and employment. Methods of teaching through lectures will have to subordinate to the methods that will lay stress on self-study, personal consultation between teachers and pupils, and dynamic sessions of seminars and workshops. The distance education methods will have to be included on a vast scale.

**Examination Reforms:** Gradually it's shifting from the semester, terminal and annual examinations to regular and continuous assessment of student's presentation in learning must be implemented.

**International Cooperation:** Higher Education Institutions in India have been a primary instrument for the transmission and advancement of knowledge through conventional functions such as innovation, research, extension, human resource development, teaching and continuing education. International cooperation is gaining importance as yet another function. The extreme growth of transport and communication system, the universal village is witnessing a mounting prominence on international cooperation and also action to find suitable solutions to problems that have global extent and higher education is one of them (Pabla, 2011).

**Cross Culture Programmes:** After the completion of education, explore to every the places in India and world as far as achievable with the collaboration of government is essential so that one can recognize the people, literature, culture, religions, arts, technological developments and progress of human civilization in the world.

**Action Plan for Improving Quality:** There should be the provision of conduct of Academic and administrative once in three years in higher education institutions by external experts or organisation for ensuring quality in all aspects of academic activities. The un-aided or self-finance higher education institutions must come ahead for fulfilling the requirements of accreditation. The higher education institutions should realise the need for quality education and also come forward with action plan for improving the quality of education in higher educational institutions.

**World Class Education:** The priority is not given by the Indian Government to raise the standards of higher education. India has to seek the international standard in education. Numerous national universities like in the UK, Australia and USA etc. that allow studies in higher education for foreign students through correspondence courses in their countries. The Indian higher education institutions of world class education can also offer different courses of studies so that foreign students should take advantage of the globalization process. For achieving such goal it must adopt in its educational institutions the uniform international syllabus.

**Personality Development:** Finally, the personality development must be achieved but not for the suppression of creativity or natural skill. In the universalised world opportunities for the educated people are naturally generous in scope. This will result the increase in business process outsourcing (BPO) activities competition in the world trade which may lead the production of quality goods and their easy accessibility in the world market. This is the one way that the world may develop prosperity, progress and peace by able and skilful human resources.

**The High-tech Libraries:** No doubt our university libraries have a vast collection of books, but they are all in untidiness. There must be an online and conducive library for serious study. Indian universities should concentrate more on providing quality education which is comparable to that of international standards (Chahal, 2015).

## CONCLUSION

In concluding words, we can say that over the period of time, growth have been take place in higher education in terms of institutions, enrolments etc. but it is not sufficient. Indian economy is facing various challenges regarding higher education, which need to overcome through appropriate policy formation and their effective implementation. Higher education in India plays many roles. It is of surprising significance to many and reforms are often seen as considerable threats to social measures that provide profit to dominant groups The politics is the effect and most frequently the changes are not implemented verbal communication has been a similar issues in which government attempted to solve in complicated political and social problem to higher education through relating the policies. In India Higher Education is the most important part of current Indian society and it is intertwined in the political and social systems of the society. It is in need of change, development and important. It is necessary to have in realistic perceptions of what is possible and what is not in order to effectively plan for reforms and improvement of higher education.

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