



“A STUDY ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES”

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Abstract:

The positive impact of higher education on national growth is widely acknowledged. It is well-known that India's “higher education sector has grown substantially in the sixty years after independence. “The biggest higher is now in India. After gaining independence, the country's educational system saw rapid growth “in terms of the number of institutions it operated.” An important point. Education is a key factor in the progress of our country. Adapted to the demands of the present and the ever-changing nature of the global environment, it gives a real chance to think on the spiritual, moral, and social challenges that humanity is now experiencing. More educated and diligent people are needed in India if the country is to advance economically. There are probably a lot of respectable Indians in the region. India must. Raising the bar on both K-12 and university education via investment in R&D is essential if we want to establish ourselves as a leading educational institution or make a dent in the international economy. Overall, the article is about how well India's university system is doing. We are trying to find out what the administration has done to raise the bar on quality. within the realm of academics This subject aims to uncover fresh challenges and issues plaguing higher education in India. The research shows that numerous parties, including businesses, schools, parents, and the government, have different expectations, and that policies and solutions are needed that take all of this into account.

Keywords: Academics, Challenges, Higher Education, Primary Education, Suggestions.

Introduction

In a developing nation like India, what role does higher education play in fostering human flourishing? Since India's independence, the demand for higher education in the country has increased dramatically. Due to the substantial impact that higher education has on the workforce



and the resources it offers, India has generated a large number of exceptionally qualified individuals in fields such as science, engineering, technology, medicine, teaching, and management. Technically focused education It is now one among the top ten countries in the world in terms of industrial competence and technological prowess. The information explosion era has already entered India, which has already entered it. Its achievements in the realms of nuclear and space technology have proven the vast potential it has. The development of scientific innovations such as satellites, spacecraft, and the Internet will mark the advent of a new age. "Higher education will allow individuals to reflect on the significant social, cultural, moral, economic, and spiritual issues humanity is now wrestling with."^[1] This opportunity will allow people to consider these issues in the following decades. Higher education makes specialized knowledge and persons with specialized skills accessible "for national development. Within the next several decades, India will have the largest population that has ever been utilized anywhere globally." If the potential for employment is realized, the expanding young population may be a fantastic advantage, even though there is no significant relationship between persons getting higher education and work opportunities.

Conversely, if we do not provide employment and educational opportunities, the Indian economy will take a turn for the worse. Education is the most critical factor in attaining sustainability. When discussing the significance of education in the process of social and economic change, the Education Commission of 1964-1966 noted a correlation between the population density of a nation and the classrooms in this country. "Assuming that human capital is the source of autonomous economic processes or the externalizations created by human capital, education is essential in developing human capital, which serves as the basis for economic progress."

Higher Education in India:

Following "China and the United States in terms of size, variety, and total number of educational institutions, India is the world's third most extensive higher education system. China and the United States, respectively, are the largest."^[2] The higher education sector in India had a considerable expansion daily after the country gained its freedom. Following the 10 + 2 system, which consists of ten years of elementary and secondary education, two years of senior secondary education, and higher secondary education, the Indian educational system is followed." It is not easy to understand how the higher education system in India works. Polytechnics, colleges, universities, and institutions of national significance are some types of educational establishments included in its scope of coverage. There are many different types of universities, such as "state universities, deemed universities (aided and unaided), private universities, and central universities. The Indian government establishes central universities through a



parliamentary act and is responsible for allocating resources required by the University Grant Commission (UGC).”^[3]

Regulatory Bodies:

- ✚ University Grant Commission (UGC)
- ✚ All India Council for Teacher Education (AICTE)
- ✚ Council of Architecture (COA)

Research Councils:

- ✚ Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)
- ✚ Indian Council of Social Sciences (ICSSR)
- ✚ Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR)
- ✚ National Council of Rural Institute (NCRI)

India’s Higher Education Faces several Obstacles and Problems:

Establishing a solid and efficient educational system has been a challenging endeavor ever since attaining independence. Several administrations sought to construct educational systems that were both creative and effective, yet more than these systems were needed for our country. The educational system in our country continues to be a source of contention for Indians.^[4] “The Indian government is well aware that the current status of the globe poses significant challenges to the country's higher education system that have never been seen before.” The University Grants Commission (UGC) asserts that business, natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities graduates would be expected to possess diverse skills. Additionally, “graduates will be expected to be proficient in several professional fields, including hospitality, tourism, agriculture, law, management, and engineering.”^[5]

Several foundational problems afflict “the higher education system in India. Inadequate facilities and infrastructure, open seats in academic fields and poor faculty members, low student enrollment rates, outdated and ineffective teaching strategies, failing standards for research, unmotivated students, crammed and cramped classrooms, and geographic, economic, gender, and racial imbalances are some of the factors that contribute to these issues.” Not only are there concerns about the deterioration of quality and the lack of suitable facilities, but it has also been shown that many private education providers take advantage of those who live in rural locations.^[6]

✚ **The disparity between supply and demand:**

The proportion of people enrolled in higher education in India is already relatively low (18%), especially when compared to China (26%) and Brazil (36%), as well as other nations where there is a significant gap between supply and demand. To achieve a gross enrollment rate of thirty percent “in higher education, the government of India has set a



goal of providing forty million university seats by 2025. This is an increase of fourteen million seats in only six years.”

✚ **Infrastructure and amenities that are woefully inadequate:**

Many institutions in India need to possess the infrastructure and equipment required to teach pupils effectively. Even many private educational institutions provide classes taught outside the conventional classroom format. The Internet and Wi-Fi services still need to be available to many pupils.

✚ **An inadequate degree of pedagogical quality:**

When it comes to quality, a significant number of our educational systems, institutions, and colleges are experiencing difficulties. Several issues are causing worry about the Indian educational system. These issues include a deficiency of competent instructors, fragmented instruction, an outdated and rigid “curriculum and methodology, a lack of accountability and quality control, and the separation of research and teaching.”

✚ **Disadvantages of the research:**

A tiny percentage of students in India are pursuing doctoral degrees. The number of outstanding researchers in India needs to be revised. India's educational system is designed to improve several areas, including “early-stage research experiences, a robust ecosystem for creativity and innovation, and low levels of connection with industry.”

✚ **“Growth and access” to opportunities that are not uneven:**

There is a significant disparity in access to higher education in India across different demographic groups and geographical regions. In India, there is a substantial cause for worry over the unequal expansion of higher education schools. Even though “69% of Indians still earn less than \$2 per day, more children in India are not enrolled in school than in sub-Saharan Africa. Of all the countries in the world,” India has the most significant proportion of children not attending school. According to the assessments of the World Bank, India is considered to have “a severe dual economy.”

✚ **A greater focus on theory and less on actual knowledge:**

On the other hand, the “Indian education system focuses more on theoretical knowledge and less on practical knowledge.” As an additional point of interest, a minimum requirement of a significant proportion is typical for many occupations.

✚ **A lack of engagement and monitoring of educational issues on the part of professors:**

The vast majority of academics and other higher authorities do not take pleasure in participating in activities that are about education. They continue to pay attention to their personal growth.



✚ **Traditional methods of instruction:**

Employing conventional methods, such as the board and the marker, is still prevalent among professors. They have a strong aversion to “the use of audio-visual equipment in lessons. In addition, they are not up to date on the readily available information and the requirements mandated by the worldwide business community. After graduating from IIT and IIM, many students hunt for work opportunities in Australia, the United States of America, Canada, and others.” After completing their college studies, they have developed themselves globally ahead of multinational corporations. A predetermined norm that demands students to serve their nation is something that they are required to adhere to.

✚ **Protection and Secrecy:**

To improve both security and secrecy, colleges are required to give users permissions that are based on their roles. At the appointed time, there will be a system that is suitable for keeping track of the attendance of both pupils and instructors.

✚ **The Quota Process:**

There was a decline in the quality of education that occurred with the implementation of “the reservation and quota system for various categories. Due to quotas, we are compelled to choose an individual from a reserve group even though he is unsuitable for the position.” This is the case even when we consider worthy candidates of general categories.

✚ **Reflecting on Quality.**

In a recently made public report, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council expressed concern regarding the fact that sixty-eight percent (68%) of the nation's universities and ninety percent (90%) of its colleges are of a quality that is either average or poor. Furthermore, the report revealed that more than fifty percent of “the teaching faculty in India's colleges must possess the necessary credentials.”

✚ **Enrolment:**

Compared to rich countries and other rising nations, “India's Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for higher education is just 15%, a relatively low percentage. Due to the rise in the number of students enrolling in schools, the number of higher education institutions that are now accessible is not sufficient to meet the growing demand in the country.”

✚ **Quality:**

Within the framework of “the higher education system,” quality is a term that is multidimensional, multi-layered, and dynamic. One of the most significant challenges that India is now experiencing is ensuring “that higher education is of a good standard.” On the other hand, the government always focuses on high education standards. Many educational institutions in India need help to meet the fundamental criteria established by “the



University Grants Commission (UGC).” Consequently, they can help themselves among the most prestigious educational institutions in “the world.”

 Infrastructure:

“The higher education system in India is confronted with issues associated with insufficient physical facilities and infrastructure, as well as institutions run by the public sector. Numerous educational institutions are located on the second and third floors of the building,” while copier businesses may be found on the ground or first level of the structure.

Recommendations for improving “the Quality of Higher Education:”

The government, employers, educational institutions, parents, and students have all voiced their expectations and offered ideas to enhance the quality of higher education.

 To raise the profile of India's educational system internationally:

Fresh and revolutionary concepts must be used in education from the university to the home level. Colleges and universities should strive to raise the bar on reputation and quality. Educational institutions like colleges and universities need a solid infrastructure to entice students. Suppose the government is serious about raising the bar for research and fostering collaboration. In that case, it should push for more partnerships between India's and the world's top universities and between national laboratories and research centers at those universities. It is crucial to emphasize graduate students and ensure they have classrooms where they can succeed and learn more about the material. An excessive sense of urgency often characterizes higher education, but this will help alleviate that. If companies hire him, he can get employment. All educational institutions, whether public or private, including all colleges and universities, must be free of political connections, favoritism, and practices designed to make money. The educational system is no exception. Higher education institutions should use a multidisciplinary approach to guarantee that students' knowledge is not limited to their selected specialty areas.

 Education with a Focus on the Student and Methods That Are Dynamic:

In addition, the techniques used in higher education should meet the requirements “of learning to learn, learning to do, learning to be, and learning to become.” For educators to implement student-centered education, they must adopt new mindsets and acquire new abilities. Additionally, dynamic teaching tactics must be updated to accommodate new strategies. It will be necessary to create room for instructional methods that focus on individual study instead of those centered on lectures. Students and professors have one-



on-one interactions and interactive seminars and workshops. Distance learning techniques will need to be used on a massive scale to succeed.

✚ **Changes to the examination rules:**

Exam changes that progressively replace the terminal, yearly, and semester tests with frequent and ongoing assessments of students' learning progress must be implemented. It is vital to embrace these reforms.

✚ **Cooperation on an International Scale:**

Through traditional activities such as research, innovation, teaching, and “the development of human resources, universities in India have played a significant role in the growth of knowledge and the transfer of information.” International cooperation is yet another role that is developing into an increasingly important one. The global community is noticing an increasing focus on international collaboration and action to discover suitable responses. Our global dimensions are under challenges from Grow. One of these is the pursuit of higher education. It is because of the increased development of transportation and communication that this has occurred.

✚ **To increase the number of educational institutions:**

“The National Knowledge Commission (NKC), a high-level advisory body that the Indian Government established on June 13, 2005, was tasked with advising the Prime Minister on the State of Education in India and the reforms that should be made to the industry. We have a larger population than the number of universities currently in existence, and we require additional educational institutions.” Sam Pitroda was the executive in charge of it, and in November of 2007, it was made into a report. To get the gross enrollment rate up to 15%, the National Knowledge Council (NKC) has proposed that 1500 institutions be constructed by 2015. “This aims to monitor the overall quality of higher education in India. In addition, it has suggested the establishment of an Independent Regularity Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE).”^[7]

✚ **Programs that bridge cultures:**

After you have finished your schooling, make it a point to go to as many different places in India and throughout the world as you possibly can with the assistance of the government. This will allow you to better understand people, cultures, arts, literature, religions, and technical breakthroughs and improve worldwide human civilization.

✚ **A strategy for enhancing the quality of the result:**



It is required that universities undergo “academic and administrative audits once every three years by specialists from the outside world.” This is done to ensure that all aspects of academic activity are of a high level. Self-financing colleges are required to apply for accreditation and demonstrate that they satisfy the requirements for accreditation. Educators in universities and colleges must acknowledge the significance of providing high-quality instruction and provide a plan of action “to improve the quality of education” offered at these establishments.

✚ Education of World-Class Standards:

The government of India places a low priority on enhancing educational quality. Education in India has to be brought up to the same level as the rest of the globe. International students can pursue higher education at various national institutions, including those in “the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, and other countries.” These colleges allow students to attend classes in person or online. By capitalizing on the trend of globalization, Indian colleges with a well-deserved reputation for educational quality can also offer study programs to students from other countries. To accomplish this objective, its educational institutions will need to adopt a conventional and worldwide curriculum.

✚ The development of one's personality:

Education should not be used to stifle innate ability or creativity; instead, it should be used to foster the development of the individual's individuality. In the modern, globalized world, the options open to persons who have completed their education are undoubtedly extensive. As a consequence, business process outsourcing (BPO) activities have increased competition in the trade sector, which has led to the production of high-quality goods and the availability of samples of those goods on the international market. Competent and talented men can influence the world in this way to foster peace, prosperity, and progress.

✚ The use of high-tech libraries:

Although the library at our university has a substantial book collection, the books could be more organized. All students must have a “city study environment and an online library.” Educational institutions in India must focus more on teaching at a high level that aligns with international norms.

Conclusions:

Since independence, “there has been a significant increase in the number of higher education” institutions. Despite this, India needs to catch up in providing education of the highest quality. India's economy is one of the most rapidly expanding economies globally. ^[8] A growth rate that is more than nine percent each year. More educational establishments need to provide this—



a superior level of education. Suppose the pace of growth is to be maintained. In that case, “there is an immediate demand to review the financial resources, education policies, access and equality, quality, standards, relevance, and responsiveness to achieve and comprehend the requirements that will be imposed.”^[9] When it comes to obtaining and sustaining international accidents, a few aspects are pretty significant. Significantly, it is necessary to pick staff members with care and provide continuing training and development. In addition, the promotion includes providing academic development programs, such as instructional strategies.^[10] Learning approaches, for example. We must strongly emphasize student mobility, both within and between countries, as well as “mobility between higher education institutions and employment, to provide students with the opportunity to get fully acquainted with the workplace and its many values.” Specialists who are not involved with the organization must conduct a precise and rare external evaluation. People from all around the world.

India is the country that supplies the rest of the globe with workers that are educated and skilled. Because we cannot take advantage of their ability to change our country from a developed one to a developing one, we need to set specific standards to promote educated paper to improve our economy.^[11] This is the reason why we are unable to go forward. It is the limits of our knowledge that will determine the period that we are going toward. It is a peaceful educational system that is forward-thinking, contemporary, and capable of performing and modifying oneself to conform to a constantly evolving culture’s standard.^[12] Economic and “international environmental regulatory organizations and the higher education system in India” are obligated to swiftly identify the most significant issues and formulate commitments to remedy them. When just one or two institutions are involved, the influence is negligible. If the government is willing to promote programs that will develop our educational system, then the future will come to us. The goal of having the best economy in the world will be easily attainable, and we will be competitive on par with other nations.

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