

Higher Education Reform in India: Prospects and Challenges

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Abstract - Education is one of the significant factors in the development of any country. It transforms the needs of time and changing scenario of the world. It reflects upon the social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity critically. The country needs more efficient and educated people to drive our nation forward. Many Indians know about their capabilities and skills. To develop the nation as a prosperous partner in global economy, it has to strengthen general and higher education along with research and development. This research paper is primarily focused on the overall performance and challenges relating to the system of higher education in India.

Keywords - Higher education, issues, challenges.

I. INTRODUCTION

Higher education system existing in India today was originally introduced by the British government in mid of 19th century to serve the colonial economic, political and administrative interests, and in particular, to consolidate and maintain their dominance in the country. After 1947, state managers have expanded and inherited this system during the last five decades. India comprises 214 (198 state and 16 central) universities, 38 'deemed-to-be universities,' 11 national institutes, 9,703 colleges, and 887 polytechnics. The system has given the employment to 321,000 teachers and caters to 6,755,000 students. India has produced professionals which are of great demand throughout the world. India is top ten countries in its industrial and technological capacity, due to its substantial share of work force and tools provided by higher education, especially, technical education. Higher education renders specified knowledge and skilled persons for the development of nation. The Education Commission 1964-66 described the role of education in social and economic transformation through a statement the density of a nation is shaped in its class rooms. Education creates human capital which is the core of economic progress and assumes that the externalities generated by human capital are the source of self sustaining economic process.

II. EMERGING ISSUES

The role of higher education in the emerging scenario of knowledge economy is very crucial for any nation like India. The basic problems faced by higher education system in India are Lower level of teaching quality, Financing of higher education, More concentrated on theories and rather than

practical knowledge, Traditional methods of teaching, Privatization, Inadequate facilities and infrastructure Quota system.

A. Lower level of teaching quality

Our education system is torture by issues of quality in many of its institutions and universities. Issues like shortage of teachers, low quality education, Traditional teaching methods, old and rigid syllabuses and pedagogy, lack of responsibility, differentiation between teaching and research are raise questions of Indian education system.

B. Financing of higher education

There are issues of financial constraints in higher education in front of the government. The State Government is already spending 20-30 % of its revenue for education, which is already not affordable. In our country, higher education has experienced lesser attention than other levels.

C. Traditional methods of teaching

Professors still stick to those older methods of teaching like board, marker. They don't like to make use of audio visual aids in teaching. Also they are not up to date with the information available and what global industry demands.

D. Privatization

In our country both public and private institutions are operating at the same time. Private institutions caters approximately 50 per cent need of the higher education in India which involve high cost. Private players try to minimize cost by compromising on the quality of education for the purpose to have higher profits. Therefore, quality of teaching staff is a major issues for higher education sector to sustain in the future.

E. 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.

F. Quota system

Bringing the reservation and quota system for different categories in education lost its quality. Even deserving candidates of general categories are ignored and on quota we

have to select other person from reserved category even though he is not suitable

III. EMERGING CHALLENGES

Higher education system of India is the second largest in the world which caters the education to lakhs of students of various sections of the society. Today our country faces many problems concerning to poverty unemployment and reducing moral and spiritual values. Countrywide problems and challenges emerged in Higher Education system which has been faced by the India in the last few decades are talked over as below:

A. *Our heterogeneous education system*

Different geographical, economic and living conditions impose big challenge to the educational institutions. Varieties of institutions, colleges and universities produce different type and quality of education. A few are doing good and provide qualitative education but a few others are just killing on the time and quality of education.

B. *Interference of political factors*

Political system play a key role in the governing bodies of the Institutions/universities imparting education. They interfere by establishing youth cells and motivates the students politically. This exploits the energy of students and deviates them from their main objectives. Moreover students try to develop their career in politics.

C. *Economic Difficulties*

Most of the students are related to the ordinary classes; who are unable to arrange minimum requisites of life for themselves. They cannot afford educational expenses. They do part time work to pay the fee and therefore their efforts are divided between job and studies. Almost seventy five percent of the student community is facing the financial troubles today.

D. *Lack of Moral values*

Younger generation's dissatisfaction, eagerness to adopt shortcuts to achieve more in lesser time are the consequence of a decaying system of values. Moreover, the industrialization, and speedy emergence of science and technology is causing a great risk to our traditional moral and values.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

- (1) Higher education in India is facing big challenges, which need to faced by effective policy making and its execution.
- (2) Reforms in Higher education are in general seen as substantial threats to specific, social powerful groups.
- (3) Politics is the outcome and changes are not enforced frequently. The government attempted to work out difficult

social and political problems through policy relating to higher education.

- (4) Higher education for any country is a most important component and it is looped in the socio-political systems of the society. It is the demand of an hour and is most important. Realistic perceptions needed to be understood and considered for effectively plan for reforms and improvements.

V. REFERENCES

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