

## IMPACT OF PRIVATIZATION ON QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

*Higher education imparts in-depth knowledge and understanding so as to advance the students to new frontiers of knowledge in different walks of life. Higher education is a global phenomenon which contributes to national development through dissemination of specialized knowledge and skills. The quality of students produced in education sector depends on the quality of education provided to them and the quality of education in turn depend upon many factors like infrastructure of the institution; quality of faculties; method of teaching used; opportunities for participating in extra-curricular activities etc. Privatization of higher education in India introduced new policies and programs to increase more employments, outcomes and income opportunities and achieve economic development. It has brought about a rapid change in the educational scenario of India. The increasing number of private institutions is the recent demand of society as the students are primary customers of higher education. The objective of this study is to compare the quality of education provided to the undergraduate students studying in public and private educational institutes in Jabalpur. The method used in the study was survey method. The sample was collected by random sampling method. 200 students from three public and three private educational institutions were selected as the sample for the study. The samples were studied with reference to the categories like infrastructure of the institute, quality of faculties, method of teaching used, co-curricular activities; discipline and personality development. It was observed that although in few areas public educational institutions are performing equally well as private institutions but overall performance of private colleges is better than public colleges. The study provides important suggestions to both public and private college principals to upgrade their quality of education by working on the variables studied and compose a uniform system of education for both public and private colleges which will lead to the development of the students, the youth of our country.*

**Keywords:** Privatization, Higher Education, Quality of Faculties, Infrastructure, Personality Development.

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### Introduction

Education is an important tool for human development and human development is the real indicator of the advancement and promotion of a society. The main function of higher education is to add real value to human resources and create wealth and leaders in different fields like business, services, politics etc. Higher education is considered as a priority goal as it was perceived as a promoter of economic growth and technological development. Higher education was largely funded by central and state government till the early nineties but due to increasing demand of the students for higher education, the government urged the private sector to enter the field of higher education.

### Concept of Privatisation

Privatisation is one of the global trends seen in higher education. Privatisation in simple terms implies applying market principles to the functioning of public institutions of higher education. Privatization means initiation of private ownership, management and control of organizations or institutions. The control is in terms

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of decision making and responsibility of money and administration. The main salient feature of privatization is gradual transformation of public enterprise into private enterprise. So, it is a process which can be defined as the transfer of activities, decision making and responsibility of money, assets, administration from public institutions or organizations to private individual and agencies.

### Higher Education and Privatization

Privatization of higher education was initiated in 1991 with the initiation of the Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) Policy. Privatization of higher education has emerged in several forms and types in the recent decade in India. Privatization of higher education has emerged in several forms in the recent decade. Privatization within government higher education institutions takes place in the form of introducing self-financing courses within government institutions. Second form is converting government aided private institution in to private self financing institution. Third form of privatization is allowing self financing private institution with recognition and also without recognition. This may be termed as commercial private higher education institutions. Private Institutes are mainly allowed to set up state private universities, deemed university and academic institution with foreign collaboration. Kapur and Mehta (2006) described the evolution of privatization in Indian higher education using a phrase, "from half-baked socialism to half bake capitalism."

A well developed and equitable system of higher education that promotes best quality learning as consequences of both teaching and research is central for success in the emerging knowledge economy. It is the key for success of future generation. If the education provided is not upgraded according to the society, then the students will not be empowered and the future of the society will be unimaginably a nightmare. Quality of education is based on the way of teaching which must be precise and understandable by each student so that students must generate interest in the education. The quality of education includes the up gradation of study materials, teaching techniques, and other miscellaneous factors. Though public and private universities are governed by different people, they tend to do the same job, but since the motivation factors differ the quality of education provided by them differs too. The economic success is directly based on education system.

### Need of Privatization in Higher Education

The need of privatization in higher education can be sum up in the following points – to increase the competitive efficiency of public sector; to meet the growing demand of higher education with rapid demand of students; to reduce financial burden on government and for decentralization of educational institutions; for providing quality education by shaping the curriculum and methodology according to the global, national and local needs; to fulfil the need of skilled manpower; to fulfil the need of the country in liberalisation, privatization and globalisation; to facilitate technology development and economic development.

### Review of Literature

**Baeda, Oberon, Manmeet (2017)**, Privatization of higher education in India: need, impact and suggestions, *International Journal of Recent Scientific Research Vol. 8, Issue, 3*, The need to privatize higher education is explained in this paper. India has world's third largest higher educational system, next to China and United States. The mission of higher education is to achieve access, equality, justice, quality, employability, inclusiveness and create a knowledge society/economy. The deteriorating administration, unproductive practice, corruption and fund unavailability leads to break down of indigenous educational system. To tackle with the problem of unavailability of funds, instead of setting up new institutions, which require huge investments, priority of the government is to expand the capacity of existing institutions and to open the new educational institutions in higher education in private sector only. The impact of privatization in higher education is positive as well as negative. The suggestions to take maximum benefits from privatization are also discussed.

**Oza, Chandni, (2018)**, A Study on Impact of Quality Assurance on Higher Education in India, SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3105154> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3105154>. Through this study author has tried to highlight issues like impact of quality assurance on educational institutions. Another objective is to review literature regarding the quality assurance impact on colleges and universities and to also find out the role of different parties in this quality assurance process. Another thing is to understand meaning of quality by studying different definitions and literature related to it. The study is about the quality and quality assurance schemes. Very few institutions are getting accredited by the rating agencies. Therefore, awareness needs to be created among all stakeholders regarding importance of quality assessment and effectiveness. Also there is a requirement of a more comprehensive approach towards actually enhancing the quality rather only on formulating or relying on quality assurance schemes.

**Dr. Sreenivas, T., Babu, N., Suresh (2015)** Higher education in India – Quality Perspective, International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences, ISSN: 2278-6236. Vol. 4 | No. 7. This paper provides an overview of the Higher Education in India. Students are the primary customers in an educational setup and it is strongly supported by many researchers. Students involve in different roles: they are the product of the process, the internal customer for campus facilities, the laborers of the learning process and the internal customer of the delivery of the course material. The paper gives an overview on Higher Education statistics and challenges that are being faced by Higher Education Institutions and finally tries to bring out some suggestions to improve the Quality in Higher Education.

**Alam, K, Halder,U.,K, (2016)**, The emergence and impact of privatization of higher education : Indian overview, Journal of Education and Development, ISSN : 2248 – 9703, Vol.6, No.12, the prime objective of this paper is to present the emergence of privatization in present higher education in India and also to analyze the impact of privatization in higher education. Privatization of higher education was initiated in 1991 with the initiation of the Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) Policy. Privatization of higher education in India introduced new policies and programs to increase more employments, outcomes and income opportunities and achieve economic development at Regional, State wise, National and International levels. It has brought about a rapid change in the educational scenario of India. Privatization encourages the individual and society to establish schools, colleges and private universities to meet the growing demand for education. As a result, private educational institutions are growing day by day throughout the country. Privatization of higher education in India has positive and negative impacts on education and society

**K.Ibrahim, Y.,Ramzan, (2016)**, Academicians' Opinions about Privatization in Higher Education? A Comparative Research in State and Foundation Universities, International Online Journal of Educational Sciences, ISSN: 1309-2707,8 (4), The purpose of this study is to compare the views of instructors in public and foundation universities on privatization in higher education. The sample of this study consisted of 2,246 academicians who worked in eight foundation and six public universities in Turkey during the 2012-2013 academic year. Data was collected with the Opinions Regarding Privatization in Higher Education scale. Results of the analysis suggested a significant difference between the views of public and private university instructors regarding privatization. The scores of foundation university instructors in the opinions regarding privatization in higher education scale are higher than the scores of academicians of public universities. Academicians in foundation universities have more favorable opinions towards privatization than their colleagues in public universities. However, the fact that academicians in both institutions expressed an "uncertain" opinion proves that they believe privatization practices are not basically effective in solving problems regarding the higher education system.

#### Objective of the Study

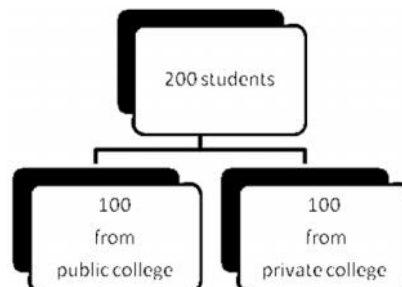
To compare the quality of education of private and public funded Colleges of Jabalpur.

#### Research Methodology

Survey method was employed to conduct the study.

#### Sample

The sample was selected by random sampling technique. 200 samples were selected



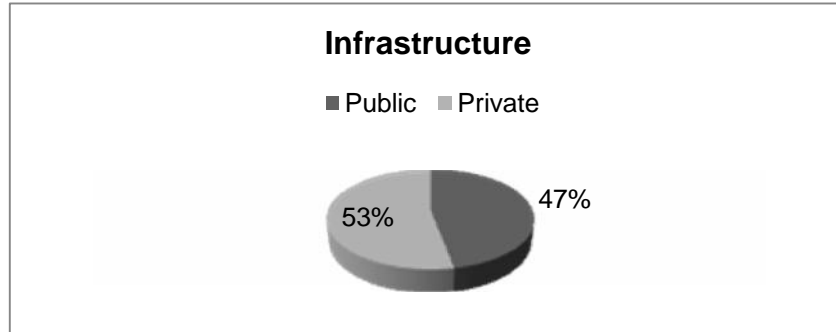
#### Tools Used in the Study

- Self made questionnaire consisting 25 questions on five point scales.
- Interviews

### Data Analysis and Findings

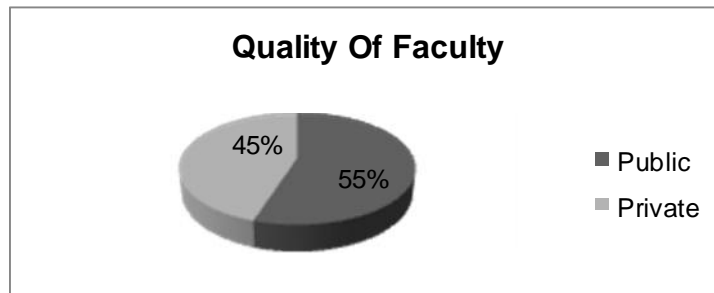
In this study, we have compared the results of facilities provided in the two types of education institutions in Jabalpur, the public institutes and the private institutes. In this context we have studied five different dimensions-

- **Infrastructure**



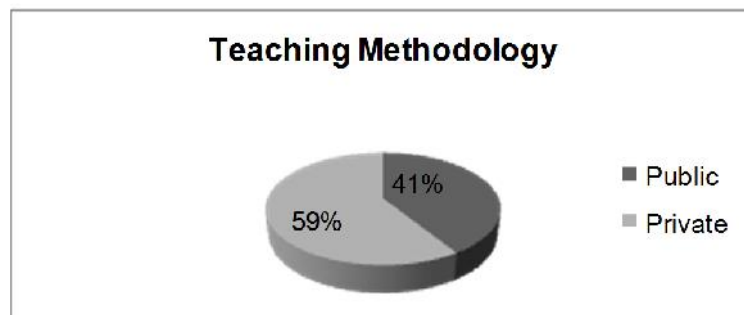
There is slight difference seen with reference to infrastructure of the private and public educational institutes. The percentage shows that private educational institutes (53%) have better infrastructure than public educational institutes (47%) as private institutes are providing better facilities like smart classes, well equipped computer labs, open Wi-Fi, well furnished library, hostel facilities, conveyance facilities, playground, gym etc. for the all-round development of the students.

- **Quality of Faculty**



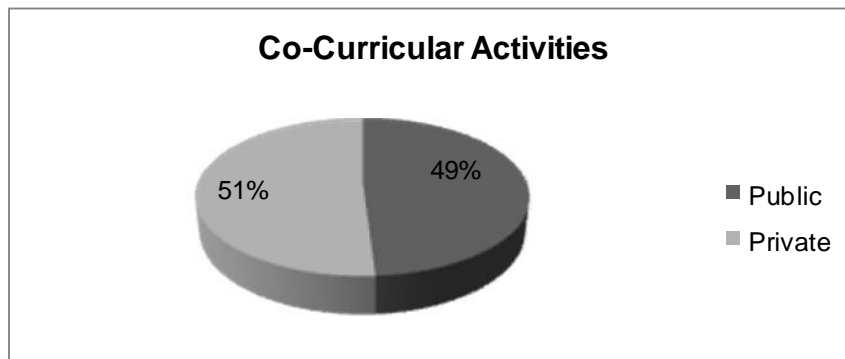
There is a difference observed with reference to quality of teachers teaching in private and public educational institutes. The percentage calculated reveals the fact that the quality of teachers in public educational institutes (55%) is better than the quality of teachers in private educational institutes (45%). The major cause behind this difference is the qualification of the teachers which is according to the set norms. Apart from this it is also been observed that teachers of public institute undergo many refresher and orientation courses and attend many faculty development programme to update themselves. On the other hand teacher of private institute are not much benefitted by such courses.

- **Teaching Methodology**



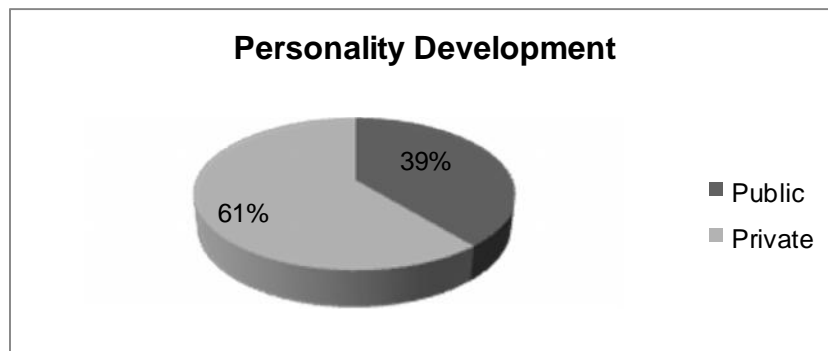
There is difference seen in the teaching methodology adopted by the teachers of the private and public educational institutes. The percentage shows that private educational institute(59%) teacher's uses better teaching methodology as compare to the teachers of public educational institutes (41%). The main cause behind this difference is that the teachers of private sector practice modern teaching techniques like power point presentations, smart classes and real life experience techniques as the available resources for using new technology is more in private institutes as compared to the public institutes. On the other side many public college teachers still believes in traditional teaching methods. Due to this acquired learning outcomes of students of private institutes are better than students of public institutes.

- **Co-Curricular Activities**



There is not much difference seen in the participation of students of private and public educational institutes in co curricular activities. The percentage calculated shows that student's participation in co curricular activities in private educational institutes(59%) is slightly better than in public educational institutes (41%) as the facilities and motivation provided to the students for participation in co-curricular activities is better in private institutes.

- **Personality Development.**



There is remarkable difference seen in the personality development of the students studying in private and public educational institutes. In private educational institutes students have better personality development (61%) as compared to the students of public educational institutes (39%). It is found that private institutes organise more student development programmes to enhance the personality of their students and organizes many educational tours to provide students exposure to external world as it is an important need of today's society whereas public educational institutes students are not having much of these kind of experiences in their institutions.

**Conclusion**

Privatisation is the only way to absorb the increasing number of students into higher education and to meet growing needs of the students due to globalisation. Privatisation is the means to reduce the burden of state in providing higher education to its energetic youth.

The conclusion from the present study state that private educational institutes are performing better than public educational institutes in many dimensions viz. Infrastructure, teaching methodology, co curricular activities and personality development although there are many problems associated with the privatisation of higher education system. It is also been observed that if the regulatory board which can have a check on private educational institutes would be established, the privatisation can resolve many problems associated with higher education. The standard of higher education can only be improved through a balance maintained between public and private sector of education.

### Suggestions

- Government should develop a regulatory framework so that private education institutes meet the standards of public education institutes and adhere to public goals.
- Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the administration and financing of higher education should be practiced as PPP reflects the joint responsibility for the development of educational sector by non public resources.
- Private institutions should not be given much of independence as it may lead to many problems such as high fee structure, exploitation of teachers etc. So, regulatory body which can control and restrict the functioning of private higher educational institutes should be established to avoid such problems.
- To maintain the quality of higher education government should also keep sufficient control over unaided colleges.
- The principal and management should check the eligibility of teachers before appointing them and should pay them good salary and job security so they can work hard to maintain the quality of education without having fear to get terminated at the end of the session.
- The principal and management should plan such a fee structure that each sector of the society can be able to pay the amount and can be benefitted by the education system.
- Management of private institutes should also plan for the placement of the students so they can be assured for future jobs.
- Teachers should use the modern teaching methodology and concept based education should be provided to the students.
- Students and parents should make a better choice while selecting the institution for higher education focussing more on the quality of education provided.

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