

ASPECTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN MAHARASHTRA

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ABSTRACT

The paper cites Government of India guidelines that state that a Higher Education institution may be supported or owned by a State or Local Government, a Company established in India, or an individual or group of individuals who are citizens of India and meet the criteria set out in the Schedule to the law for the establishment of institutions. It also mentions that India's UGC enacted a law allowing for the creation of private institutions. The state bodies, as well as the UGC, are required by the private university legislation to govern and oversee the content and curricula of academic programs. It has been discovered that certain recently recognized private institutions are not adhering to UGC Regulation.

Keywords: *University Management, Maharashtra Private University Act, UGC, AICTE.*

Introduction

Private and public universities exist in India. Public universities are sponsored by the central and state governments, whereas private universities are mostly self-funded. The University Grants Commission (UGC) recognizes Indian universities. Accreditation and collaboration are supervised by professional councils. Private universities in India are governed by the UGC. Private universities are established by local legislative acts and published in the Gazette by the UGC upon receipt. A Supreme Court of India verdict says the university must be recognized by the UGC to operate. The UGC also sends inspection teams to private universities, as mandated by the 2003 rules.

The Higher Education Act has authorized 21 private universities in Maharashtra. Master's and doctoral programs are designed to provide in-depth knowledge and sound research in core and interdisciplinary educational fields (Amadei et al., 2006; Glaser and Strauss, 1967). However, certain limitations must be placed on assessed research effort, as well as new private universities must be regulated. Private universities clearly cannot open off-campus locations outside of the state in which they are created, according to the definition and UGC guidelines. Furthermore, a private university cannot be associated with any other educational institution outside of the state. Surprisingly, the AICTE-CII promotes industry collaboration initiatives for engineering education, which fall within the off-campus study center category.

AICTE India has recognized one of the private universities in Meghalaya for outstanding performance. As a result, private universities must be aware of the UGC's policies (AICTE, 2013). Regular inspections and evaluations by the UGC and visitors from private universities are required for this reason till the first-degree award program is completed. Private university should be seen as a newborn infant that has never learned to walk. As a parent, the UGC and the state authority for private universities, as well as visitors to private universities, must help such universities in establishing a quality

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education and research system. Apart from that, they rely on private university management bodies for doctorate candidates since individuals adhere to university management body guidelines till after graduation. They just checked the UGC website to confirm that the private university was not included under a UGC-published phony university link. The growth of private universities, the regulations controlling their creation, how certain segments of society are breaking the laws, and the government's actions to punish those who break the laws governing the establishment of private universities in India.

Need of Private Universities

Given the population surge among the 15-25 age groups in India, there is now a lack of around 1500 universities. Former Union Minister for Human Resources Development (HRD), Kapil Sibal, had said that 800 to 1000 additional universities would be required in the next ten years to increase the number of students pursuing higher education from the current 12% to 30%. There are just around 430 universities in the United States right now. Their absorption capacity is restricted, and they have a challenging time getting in. As a result, many students' dreams of pursuing further education are dashed. In this case, private universities must step in to fill the void. Every year, India spends over Rs 27,000 crores (\$5.9 billion) on its students studying abroad. This is a massive sum that might have been better spent on upgrading the educational infrastructure in the United States. However, the severe shortage of teaching seats in this nation is equally concerning. Nearly half of professorial positions at Central Universities are unfilled. The majority of universities and colleges have less than half the number of instructors they need. According to studies, an additional 3,00,000 academics are required. In India, a 54 percent professor deficit is anticipated. The country's lecturer-to-student ratio is 1:20.9, compared to the 1:13.5 suggested by the University Grants Commission (1:12 for postgraduate students and 1:15 for undergraduates). As India's economy expands, the Union government intends to add 25 million students to the existing 15 million in higher education. By 2030, the goal is to increase India's gross enrolment ratio in the 18 to 25 year old age group from 12.4 percent to 30 percent (Aithal and Suresh Kumar, 2016).

Problems in Management of Private Universities

Private universities that mishandled academic universities were de-recognized by the UGC in India before a decade. UGC and state government bodies need regular incumbents for newly founded universities in order to oversee private universities. According to the UGC, there are just a handful of unrecognized institutions. For starters, there are several off-campus organizations whose parent bodies are generally headquartered in the permitted state. However, according to UGC assessments and visits to private universities during the first five years (incumbent period) after its foundation, if any procedure is followed by the university incorrectly, UGC provides guidance to fix any deficiencies in the functioning of the private university. Such an action may be investigated by consulting the MLU (Meghalaya) review report, which is published on the UGC website. Second, they hold their own admission entrance tests on or off campus, for which the UGC granted approval in May 2012. So, if the UGC allows Ph.D. course work to be completed outside of a private university, off-campus facilities where students may write course work papers under the supervision of a university coordinator are unavoidable. As a result, the 2012 change to the UGC rule allowed out-of-state students to sit for the Ph.D. entrance test or course work but did not specify where the coursework paper should be written. Because of the poor incumbent in the first five years, managing a Ph.D. program at a private university is difficult.

To prevent any mismanagement, it is the major duty of state government bodies as well as visitors to private universities to monitor the admissions process until the first degree is awarded on a regular basis. In addition, every state issues a "University Act" gazette for public consumption. However, for proper administration of private universities, it is now necessary to plan and define the duties and obligations of "visitor" and "state government body." We may simply define a hierarchy of management bodies, such as if a university visitor is the Governor of State, how can he contribute to the university when he is already overburdened with other government duties? As a result, he may simply hold quarterly or half-yearly review meetings, or he can attend convocation. As a result, the next step is for a state government organization to perform a continuous evaluation of procedures. This will guide private universities in evaluating and establishing excellent education. Such groups may receive reports from the vice chancellor, the board of directors, or the registrar of a private university, and can have regular meetings for at least the first five years, or until the institution's first convocation. Now, we cannot hold the board of directors of private universities responsible for any mishandled procedure if state government bodies never undertake the necessary early setup phase evaluations or meetings. On the other hand, university experts may take advantage of the situation to generate money. As a result, regular process monitoring is the only way to keep such mismanagement under control (Agarwal, 2006).

Failure of Private University

Many private university academics, according to a survey, authored low-quality research articles. There will be no misrepresentation if private universities follow the UGC requirements throughout Ph.D. procedures, such as research university assessment prior to publication and project life cycle management. Every private university should establish autonomous and off-campus research facilities where Ph.D. candidates may work on research projects. Many projects, such as renewable energy projects, civil engineering projects, and aviation research projects, come within the category of onsite project development (Hicks, 1995). In this case, the applicant will be guided by a local guide who has been authorized by a private university and will provide a progress report (Daly et al., 2008). However, if university project monitoring is lacking, the project will fail. The most essential thing is to keep track of the overall number of PhDs awarded each year so that quality work can be readily monitored. Although the UGC licenses private universities, it is becoming more challenging to sustain private excellence at these universities (Gergen, 1994). Is this research of high quality being produced by these universities? How many Ph.D. holders have extensive knowledge? How many patents have been issued because of the work of such university candidates? Who will be accountable for the loss of serious research scholars who have already labored for years to secure a patent for their research work if a university closes due to the mismanagement of a few candidates? For such applicants, the loss is tremendous, and it seems that no one would pursue a Ph.D. at a private university.

The Maharashtra government recently enacted a law allowing private universities to be established in the state. However, other universities, such as Pune University, never hire or promote Ph.D. holders from private universities. The UGC should impose a regulation requiring all universities to employ Ph.D. holders from private universities. So, would Pune University, which is in Maharashtra, be able to employ Ph.D. applicants from future private Maharashtra universities? This is a critical situation in the research field, and only rigorous monitoring can ensure that educational quality and excellent researchers are maintained.

Conclusions

It is now time to clarify what constitutes real research. As can be seen, the ratio of patents issued by Indian private universities is quite low in comparison to other nations. A Ph.D. program is a doctorate degree that entails extensive research. But can you consider the conclusion of this study? As an ideal example, we believe the UGC should include one of the most significant regulations in its regulations, which is the need of a patent for any research conducted under the Ph.D. degree. This approach will function and will keep the research quality high. Such research initiatives might also be carried out for the benefit of the country or the world. This strategy will limit Ph.D. admissions, allowing only serious research researchers to enroll. A rule like this may help you become a better researcher.

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