

PRESENT SCENARIO OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN RAJASTHAN: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

India, as on date is considered as a talent pool of the world with the most qualified and educated human work-force. Many schemes and new policies have been introduced by central/state government for growth in education, yet there is a requirement of improvement in some aspects. Government of Rajasthan is recruiting well qualified faculty and developing an infrastructure of global standards while encouraging higher education institutions and colleges to raise their own funds with an aim to minimize their dependency on the government funding. This study is an effort to reveal the various facts about higher education in Rajasthan and initiatives taken by the government to improve the quality of higher education in the state.

KEYWORDS: *Legislation, Expert, Accreditation, Pedagogy, Synergies.*

Introduction

The importance of education in was recognized by the founding fathers of the country and subsequently by the governments in power by giving importance to literacy, school enrolments, institutions of higher education and technical education since independence. The Department of College Education was set up in 1958 for the administration and development of higher education in the State of Rajasthan. As per the MHRD report 2017-18, the working age population will be increasing to approx. 900 million up to 2020. So, as per these statistics, India can play very crucial role in society and the whole world by providing the talented, qualified and highly skilled human resource in abundance, and for this, quality oriented Higher education system is needed which can foster knowledge with analytical skills.

Methodology

- **Nature and Objective of Study**

The study is mainly descriptive in nature. Secondary data has been used for the purpose of the study which was collected from websites, various articles and journals. The objective of the study is to analyse the present scenario of higher education in Rajasthan in find out various initiatives taken for making the youth educated and employable.

Higher Education in India – Current Scenario

India is the third largest higher education system in the world after China and the United States of America with a reported student enrolment in the formal education system up to 16 million students in an academic year. Not just in regard with number of student enrolments but also in terms of number of higher education institutes, India comes under highest higher education system comprising of 903 universities and 39,050 colleges. Apart from these figures, India spends approximately \$13 billion, in acquiring education outside the country in terms of higher education and specified technical education. Post-independence, the increase in the growth of institutes is by 26 times in case of universities and 66 times in case of colleges. Indian population has begun to appreciate the value of education under global economy and has shown keen interest in demonstrating the willingness to pay for quality education, which has shown growth in students opting for higher education after school.

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The institutional framework consists of Universities established under Act of Parliament i.e. Central Universities or State Legislatures, Deemed Universities – institutions accorded with the status of a university within the authority to award their own degrees in conjunction with central government's notifications, prestigious institutions awarded the status by Parliament like IITs and IIMs, and other aided and unaided universities.

- **Colleges**

There is a huge variation in number of colleges per district. Almost 10.9% of colleges are located in these top 10 districts.

Top 10 Districts having Maximum Number of Colleges

District Name	Number of Colleges
Bangalore (Urban)	893
Jaipur	558
Hyderabad	472
Pune	442
Rangareddy	343
Nagpur	337
Allahabad	332
Mumbai	313
Guntur	303
Bhopal	270

- **Growth in Number of Higher Education Institutions in India**

The number of universities and similar institutions has been increased by about 24.9%, whereas the number of colleges has increased by 6.6%.

Year wise Number of Colleges (Affiliated/Constituent) and Universities

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Colleges	36634	38498	39071	40026	39050
Universities	723	760	799	864	903

*Number of colleges have been reduced recently due to deletion of all such colleges that have not been registered even after getting the AISHE code.

- **Growth in Student Enrolment in India**

The student enrolment has increased considerably during the last 5 years with overall growth of 13.3%.

Growth in Student Enrolment

Year	Student Enrolment
2013-14	32336234
2014-15	34211637
2015-16	34584781
2016-17	35705905
2017-18	36642378

- **Gender Distribution**

In India, The top 6 States in terms of highest total student enrolment are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka West Bengal, and Rajasthan.

Top States as per Enrolment and Distribution of Male- Female

State	Number of Male	Number of Female
Uttar Pradesh	3308314	3147061
Maharashtra	2271078	1860679
Tamilnadu	1739315	1701630
West Bengal	1061520	974461
Karnataka	971393	972463
Rajasthan	1054511	881693

- **Type - wise Number of Universities**

Sr. No.	Type - wise Number of Universities		
	Type of University	Rajasthan	All India
1	Central University	1	45
2	Central Open University	-	1
3	Institutes of National Importance	4	101
4	State Public University	22	351
5	State Open University	1	14
6	State Private University	43	262
7	Deemed University Private	3	80
	Total	79	854

- **Number of College per Lakh Population(18-23 years), Average Enrolment per College**
Type - wise Number of Universities

	Rajasthan	All India
Total Colleges	2957	39050
Colleges per Lakh Population	33	28
Average enrolment per college	526	698

- **No. of Private and Government Colleges**

Sr. No.	Place	Private Unaided	Private Aided	Total	Government	Total
1.	Rajasthan	2027	189	2216	542	2758
2.	All India	24620	5083	29703	8658	38061

- **Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education (18-23 Years)**

Sr. No.	Place	All Categories			SC			ST		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	Rajasthan	22.7	20.6	21.7	18.2	16.2	17.2	19.8	17.2	18.5
2.	All India	26.3	25.4	25.8	22.2	21.4	21.8	17.0	14.9	15.9

- **Gender Parity Index in Higher Education (18-23 Years)**

Sr. No.	Place	All Categories	SC	ST
1.	Rajasthan	0.91	0.89	0.87
2.	All India	0.97	0.96	0.87

Initiatives in Higher Education

The higher education sector of Rajasthan has grown rapidly in the last few years. With a focus on research and development, so many policies and plans have been introduced by the government for building the state as an education hub. Some of the initiatives in higher education are as following:

A Draft legislation by Modi Government

In upcoming time, a bill in Parliament may be introduced to create a single higher education regulatory system for which Modi government has drawn up the draft legislation named as 'Higher Education Evaluation and Regulation Authority, 2018' (HEERA). When it will come into the force, existing regulatory authorities, University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the National Council for Technical Education (NCTE) will be scrapped. It will be having authority to bar an institute from admitting new students in a particular course if it is violating the quality benchmarks. It will also be able to terminate affiliation of such an institute and provide for measures to safeguard interest of the enrolled students.

Institutional Enhancement

With the regular efforts of the State Government and other institutions, the higher education scenario in Rajasthan has undergone a transformational change. Gender inequalities have been lower down and there is continuous improvement in student enrollment ratio in colleges and universities. Today, Rajasthan is a fast evolving State in India as a centre for education.

Initiatives for Quality Enhancement

The Government of Rajasthan and higher education departments are committed to provide quality education to the youth of the State as there are four universities amongst the top 100 universities in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2017 which are:

- Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences
- Banasthali Vidyapeeth
- Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences
- University of Rajasthan.

Various Initiatives taken by the government to improve the quality of higher education in the state are:

- Rating and Ranking Format has been prepared
- Results are analysed and modifications are done if required
- Revised matrix is submitted for development of related software to DoIT.
- Rating and Ranking Matrix will be mandatory, after validation of format of Google sheet.

NAAC Accreditation

Approximately 70 colleges have been accredited by NAAC, out of which 7 colleges are accredited with A Grade. A State Level Quality Assurance Cell (SLQAC) has also been created for:

- Preliminary scrutiny of Self Study Report
- In-house Evaluation teams to check and inspect the institutions before the visit of NAAC team.
- 3 one-day workshops are organised to assist, train and help the nodal officers to prepare SSR report

Collaboration Within and Outside the Nation

- As per UGC scheme of "Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between India and Foreign Educational Institutions Regulations", Rajasthan is exploring possibilities of collaboration within and outside the nation.
- Rajasthan Government has collaborated with IGNOU for five Skill and Entrepreneurship capacity building courses in 22 Government colleges in the current session 2017-18. It has collaborated with empanelled partner of NSDC, GOI for enhancement of English Language Labs.

Faculty Improvement

- Leadership training workshop for academic administrators (Principals, Vice-Principals and senior faculty members) in two batches was conducted to hone their leadership and management skills by IIM Lucknow.
- Faculty Orientation programmes and Refresher Courses are mandatory at institutions.

RUSA Efforts and Achievements

In the higher education sector, it's the first time in the history that India has implemented a centrally sponsored scheme called RUSA' The Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan for using central funds in a strategic manner to ensure holistic planning at the state level to achieve the aims of equity, access and excellence

New Schemes under RUSA

- **Dishari:** for capacity building and employment enhancement in the colleges.
- **Yuva Swavlamban Yojna:** for setting up Career Counseling, Placement and Skill Development.
- **Gender ATLAS:** Preparation of Gender Atlas of the State through Application of Remote Sensing and GIS is under process.
- **Bhamashah Sahyog Yojna:** for support from individual donors and companies under CSR.

IT Innovations: Plans and Implementations

For achieving the vision goals of 2022, the Department of Higher Education, Government of Rajasthan, has prepared a Mission document for ICT strategy with some attributes:

- To implement e-Governance in Higher Education through Higher Education Portal
- Smart Classrooms

- Wi-Fi facility in colleges
- Introduction of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).
- Library computerization, linking colleges with INFLIBNET facility
- Spoken tutorials
- Digital class rooms
- Smart Science Labs and Crowd Sourced Social Platform for Education
- Industry Academia connectivity.
- Online test for students to analyse skill and aptitude on regular basis. .

New Initiatives

- District Higher Education Advisory Council to be formed for Institutional support and academic enhancement, developing entrepreneurship and employability of youth in the state.
- Small business and entrepreneurship centres can be established in all universities of the State.
- Universities are directed to design vocational courses (B Voc) for affiliated colleges and to take advantage of provisions made in UGC through SWAYAM portal.

Conclusion

Higher and Technical education in Rajasthan is facing so many challenges. Traditional pedagogy, quantity v/s quality research, student motivation, classrooms attendance issue and widespread imbalance in geographic, gender, income and ethnic fields. "Digital India" and "Skill India" are the most ambitious projects of the Government of India, which are committed for skilling and providing jobs to the youths. Government policies and schemes play a important role in information and resource sharing and with the active and involving participation of all stakeholders, these challenges can be resolved easily. In order to upgrade the skills of existing faculty, it is important to build synergies between teaching and research to promote excellence in both. Government of Rajasthan is keen to develop the higher education segment as one of the best in India. Through its various innovative initiatives, the state is making its youth educated as well as employable. The best practices will help the government to achieve their vision and generate more and more opportunities for the youngsters.

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