

ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Economic development is approximately proportional to higher education and vice versa. Higher education and economic development is interlinked with each other. Knowledge is the very important element in making a country to be developed. Higher education plays an important role in developing rational thinking, analytical and visualizing power of human beings and creates research minds. It is the governing tool to make peoples aware towards their fundamental rights. It is also the blue print to establish the welfare state. This paper deals with the issues, challenges, opportunities existing in Indian higher education system and also emphasize the suggestions and solutions to maintain the global standards of higher education system. Indian higher education system is suffering from several pertinent issues, challenges and inherent problems like access, equity, unemployment, poverty, excellence, efficiency, crisis of moral and spiritual values. Today's students have been deviated from their relevant and real goal. They are participating in unsocial and unfair activities like ragging on campus, damaging laboratories and public properties, political based strikes and demonstrations which makes the student in unrest. Non relevant and traditional curriculum and syllabus is served in higher education. India is compel to face many major issues and challenges in higher education like Modern society is believing in Glamour. Very poor education approach to deprived peoples. Over privatization of higher education system. Very poor expenditure ratio in higher education to GDP. Poor scientific and technical temperament of higher education. Though there are many opportunities in higher education system as new generations are adopting new emerging learning tools, techniques, methods and approaches to overcome the challenges in Indian higher education system. Government is also forming new relevant policies, rules and regulations. Collaborations at international level is also better opportunity to maintain global standards. India is the richest country in the frame of resources of human as well as physical. Job oriented, practically biased and more realistic curriculum could be formed to enhance the production of qualified students.

Keywords: *Interlinked, Spiritual, Deprived, Temperament, Collaborations.*

Introduction

Education defines the complete development of human being. Different aspects of development such as moral, intellectual, social, economic and human resources are the representation of education system. Economic development is approximately proportional to higher education and vice versa. Knowledge is the very important element in making a country to be developed. Higher education plays an important role in developing rational thinking, analytical and visualizing power of human being. Higher education creates research minds of human beings. It is the governing tool to make peoples aware towards their fundamental rights. It is also the blue print to establish the welfare state. This can be understood as carrier of humanism. Human resource is the power bank of thoughts and it is proved scientifically that thoughts are the energy and hence material or things. Higher education is the measurement of strength of any nation. India has made a relevant changes in higher education system. Indian higher education system is suffering from several pertinent issues like access, equity, excellence, and efficiency. India is compel to face many major issues and challenges as Modern society is believing in Glamour. Large number of problems have been faced by India such as unemployment, poverty,

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illiteracy and crisis of moral as well as spiritual values. It has been reported that thirty to forty percent of faculty positions are unfilled in Indian higher education system as a result high student–teacher ratio is happening. Today's students have been deviated from their relevant and real goal. They are participating in unsocial and unfair activities like ragging on campus, damaging public properties, political based strikes and demonstrations which makes the students in unrest. Very poor research have been performed by Indian higher education system. Non relevant and traditional curriculum as well as syllabus is served in higher education. Very poor education approach to deprived peoples. Very poor expenditure ratio to GDP. Poor scientific and technical temperament of higher education. None of the higher education institutes have been secured their rank in the top hundred institutes in the world. There is no correlation between education and morals. Despite the existing issues and challenges in Indian higher education system, there are large number of opportunities to achieve the global standards of higher education. India is appropriate place to invest at world level as India is vastly populated. Vocational and online courses can be conducted to ensure the standards of higher education in India. MHRD and UGC has played an important role in reforming the higher education system. NAAC has come to role to overcome the challenges faced by Indian higher education system. Cultural, social, moral, economic, and spiritual values can be ensured by higher education. Development linked strategies and policies are adopted by the state for promoting higher education.

Objectives of the Study

- To focus on the emerging issues in Indian higher education system.
- To enlighten the challenges faced by Indian higher education system.
- To discuss the opportunities, suggestions and solutions for Indian higher education system.

Research Methodology

In the present study secondary sources of data are used which are taken from published or unpublished research papers, records and magazines and websites. In this study we have adopted number of articles, national or international journals, newspapers, annual reports of UGC and MHRD etc.

Issues and challenges faced by Indian higher education system:

Though the Indian higher education system is the third largest next to America and China but suffering from many emerging nationwide issues and challenges which are going to be discussed here in this paper.

It has been reported that today's students are taking interests in various unwanted activities like participation of demonstrations, ragging, strikes, smoking and mass meetings. They are believing in damaging laboratories and public resources. Colleges and universities campus have become a places of politics. Quality of education has been demolished at all. Modern students are believing much more in glamorous rather than study. Most of their expenditures are belongs to glamorous rather than higher education. Pacing of techno friend and high potential generations is most emerging important issues in higher education. Expenditure figure on higher education is unsatisfactory. The Indian higher education system covers a small portion of the society. Action plan in higher education system need to be focused. Research figure in India is 194 per million which is very poor than any other developed and developing countries. Relative and pertinent issues like equity, access, excellence, lack of resources and efficiency are existing in Indian higher education system.

Enrollment

15% of Gross enrollment ratio (GER) has been reported in Indian higher education system which is very poor than any other developed country in the world. Numerous number of students have been dropped out after schooling because of insufficient supply of Indian higher education institutes which is the cause for poor enrollment in Indian higher education system. Teaching and learning of English is seemed to be challenging for rural area in India. In this reference an alternate of English language should be viewed creatively.

Equity

A significant variation in GER is found among male and female in higher education system. It differs from state to state which is the indication of countable imbalance in Indian higher education system. Higher education in India is not equally accessible to all societies. Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) corresponding to different social classes reflects deep inequality in Indian higher education system. Higher education is affected by regional disparities. Higher education institutes are not established according to population ratio in some areas. Multilingual is another major challenge faced by India as language is considered a medium of thoughts communication.

Quality of Education

Quality of education plays an important role for making a stand at global platform. Poor quality of education is served by Indian higher education system. As a result minimum UGC requirements cannot be attained by many colleges and universities. It is true that without quality of higher education it's not possible to be in cut throat world competition. In this regard curriculum should be changed and job oriented curriculum should be adopted. Orientation and training programs should be conducted to improve teaching methodology of teachers so that quality of education can be judged. The education system facilities of rural, urban and remote areas should be at the same platform to enhance the quality of higher education. The gap of teachers and students ratio should be maintained. Locational disadvantages in education system should be shorted out to get rid of communication problem.

Inadequate Infrastructure and Facilities

Physical facilities and infrastructure is found to be very poor in Indian higher education system. Due to political interferences and vote bank politics colleges are compel to be conducted in school buildings. Many higher educational colleges are suffering from inadequate facilities such as libraries, sources of transportation, laboratories, classrooms, and shortage of faculties, sports equipment and other valuable services. Many colleges are compel to conduct university examinations in open area without tables. Many higher education institutes have no proper arrangement of drinking water and toilets facility.

Faculty

It happens big challenge in higher education system. Qualified teachers are the pillars and attraction of any teaching institute or system. It has been reported that NET/Ph.D. Qualified candidates are struggling for employment even vacancies exists in higher education. According to NAAC (June 2010) out of total accreditation only 30% of universities and 45% of colleges are found to be A ranked institutes in the higher education system which is the evidences of poor quality of education in Indian higher education system. In many institutes single teachers have to teach the large number of students. Large vacancies has been observed in faculty positions. Many higher education institutes are running without librarian and PTI teacher.

Research and Innovation

Research and innovation is the key challenge in higher education system. Indian higher education system provides poor facilities and insufficient research resources. No fellowship or money attraction is provided in the research fields by Indian higher education system. Innovation and research is the parameter which differs developing and developed countries. Any discipline and subjects can be made attractive and much more relevant on the basis of innovation and research. Required global standards can be achieved by promoting the research techniques. It has been reported that research is happened only 194 per million which is very low and terribly unsatisfactory data. Research programs should be conducted in virgin areas so that cultivation may occur homogeneously. In research fields it is found that higher education institutes are at their lowest ebb. Though the research work in higher education system is rising but unable to attain the global recognition. It has been reported that research fund (4.1%) is secured in Indian higher education system which is lower than Germany (17.1%), U.K. (22.6%) and China (10.1%) countries.

Structure of Higher Education System

There is no proper management in higher education system. Management agencies suffers from challenges like over affiliation, administration, bureaucratic structures. Consequently taking place of poor administration functioning which dilutes the core focus on academics and research. Research is suffering from big communication gap between research scholars. It's just like a threat in research field. Indian higher education system is not market friendly. A unique globally recognized syllabus and curricula is needed to complete at the world level. Education has become totally memory, exam and job oriented with no fixed parameters. Lack of interaction between industry and institutes. There is outmoded teaching methods, unmotivated students, ethnic, gender and geographical disparity, Very resistive in adopting immediate changes, lack of experimental facilities in the field of science. Though India is good in Information technology (IT) fields but very poor in basic science.

Political Turmoil

As the government changes, new political parties come to in power, then they make the education policies according to their own interest. It frustrates the learners and also teachers which is the result of deterioration in Indian higher education. Teachers are also transferred with the political intention. Therefore they totally become disturbed which affects the teaching directly or indirectly.

Privatization

Privatization is the major challenge in Indian higher education because this creates the class system in the society as it supports only economically sound people. As a result Gross Enrollment Ratio of the country gets affected. Born of education mafias in higher education are the result of privatization. Unequal funding is happened to some colleges and institutions due to political pressure. Many of the students are regulated by political leaders and their energy is exploited for some political purposes. This creates violence in the society.

Poor Government Budget

Very poor funding is secured in the higher education system. In the education field, core funding is allocated in the school education system. Facility of scholarship is not provided at the scheduled time. Quantitative development is observed but qualitative development is not reported accordingly in higher education system. It has been reported that according to Kothari commission (1966) recommendation, the funding on education was fixed 6% of GDP, but this is remained out of implementation. GDP of 4.13% was fixed on education in the financial year 2015-16 but only 0.63% was allocated for higher education which is very poor. Very poor financial support is provided to higher education from the government as well as society. Most of the funds violates in the corruption. Therefore goal of higher education remains unattainable.

Poor Financial Condition of the Students

Financial condition is one of the key challenge belongs to the developing countries. Maximum number of learners and students have been dropped out for further study due to poor financial conditions. This condition is the root cause for existing inequalities within the society. It has been reported that Indian higher education has become biased towards the elite and urban students due to poor financial condition of rural and poor students. They are compel to do part time job for fundamental expenditures. These activities leads to divide their attention between job and study. So desired results in study are reported to be unsatisfactory. Finally quality of education gets deteriorated.

Quality of Education

It has been reported that in our education system many students are qualified accordingly but are suffered from the problem of unemployment. Therefore a robust change in accreditation standards is needed because accreditation standards reforms the higher education system. Indian higher education policies are not satisfactory hence should be reformed. No Indian university could be secured a place among the top 100 universities of the world according to "Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings." Only 6% of Indian higher education institutes have been participated in 2017 rankings of HRD ministry. These challenges are cause of not to pay a recognized rank of universities, institutions in the top 100 or 200 throughout the world.

Lack of Moral Values

Moral values have been deteriorated in this era of competition. Peoples are biased towards rich physical facilities. Moral values are diluted for earning the physical happiness. Unsatisfactory and revolting minds have been created that leads to violence and imbalance in the society. Indian higher education system has been also faced by globalization challenge like traditional set up of higher education, poor industry-institute interaction and poorly correlated with world market.

Opportunities and Suggestions in Indian higher education system:

Opportunities in Indian higher education system are endless and long-lasting as India is huge populated and have the billions of minds and billions of minds can be realized as country's potential candidate to embrace the development. New immerging learning tools, techniques, methods like teaching and learning by ZOOM, Google Hangouts online applications can be adopted as these are the future of new education. These techniques have flexibility, affordability, easily accessibility and career relevancy. Government is also forming new relevant policies, rules and regulations. Collaboration at international level is also better opportunity to maintain global standards. NAAC which is established by UGC is playing an important role to change traditional assessment and education of higher education system. Definitely the above positive efforts will happen as a cause for improving the standards of Indian higher education and impart the significant position throughout the world. There are large number of teaching institutes in India like universities, colleges. Production of qualified students could be enhanced. Student's demands can be fulfilled. Education institute and industry interaction should be collaborated to boost up the research fields. Indian education system is the third largest in the world. India is highly populated country may be an opportunity of immense investment in higher education at world level.

There are so many online education and learning courses that can be adopted for higher education development like SWAYAM, NPTEL, MOOCS, e-Gyankosh and NDL etc. Computational thinking and techniques should be focused in Indian higher education system as it adopt the modeling system through computer and this technique is widely used in research fields. Video lectures and e-contents should be also delivered among students so that access of education may become possible. Teachers are becoming learning facilitators rather than knowledge providers with these applications. These emerging trends in higher education may play the role of making digital literacy, connecting parents and teachers etc. Development linked strategies and policies are adopted by the state for promoting higher education. Governance in higher education sector needs to be innovative and effective to overcome the challenges confronting us. Proper collaboration should be established by the governing body between Indian higher education institutes and top ranked institutes across the world. Basic science related study should be promoted because India is poor in the field of basic science. All post promotions in higher education system should be performed according to research performances to enhance the research sense and interests. Global interaction should be promoted for ensuring better quality of education. Promotion in higher education should be based on the API score. Teaching and research temperament should be included in API score dominantly. Number of intellectual and material resources should be increased much more rather than increasing in number of institutes to maintain the quality of higher education.

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