

Challenges and opportunity in higher education system in India

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Abstract

Education is considered as the powerful weapon and basic pillar of any nation which bring about changes in socio-political, cultural and economic field. Progress and prosperity of any country is mainly linked to its human resources. The strength of any country is dependent on its intellectual and skillful citizens. As quality human capital comes from a quality education process. This research paper therefore purports to finding out specific sets of challenges and opportunities which are evident in the Indian Higher Education System. Post independence, the number of basic problems and challenges facing in the higher education which are mainly related to access and equity, enrollment, quality, curriculum, infrastructure, faculty, employability research and innovation, regulatory environment and governance, financial resources and structure of higher education.

There are much more opportunities for private sector investment. As public expenditure are not enough to meet the burgeoning requirement. Existing and future opportunities for private and foreign sector participation are growing at significant rate. The central and state governments are making more provisions to promote higher education. Role of Regulatory body of higher education like us UGC and AICTE should be made more effective and try to control the unhealthy and malpractices in higher education system of India.

Keywords: Globalization, Liberalization, Privatization, Intellectual, Deemed University, Job Seeker, Job Creator, Enrollment, Employability, Curriculum, Accreditation, Innovation, Governance, Regulatory, Philanthropic, Pedagogy, Burgeoning, GER-Gross Enrollment Ratio, competent.

Introduction

In the changing scenario of globalization liberalization and privatization, education is considered as powerful weapon and basic pillar of a nation that contributes socio-economic and political transformation of a country. The progress and prosperity of any nation is mainly linked to its human resources. Human capital is the most important factor that plays the important role in the development of a country. It is key determinant of nation's economic performance. The strength of nation is dependent on its intellectual skillful citizens. A quality human capital comes from a quality education process.

Today, India is regarded as a talent pool of the world, having qualified and educated human resources in abundance. It has been one of the primary reasons for transformation of India into one of the fastest growing economies in the world since liberalization in the 1990s. Economist observed that on the global level, progress, prosperity and wealth have become more dependent on the access to knowledge than the access to natural resources. The importance of education in India was recognized by the founding fathers of the country and the subsequent Government and as a result considerable importance has been given to literacy school enrolment, institutions of higher education and technical education. India's aspirations to establish a knowledge society in the context of increasing globalization, is based on the assumptions that higher and technical education essentially empowers people with the requisite competitive skills and knowledge as a result in the twenty first century, increasing attention has also been paid to quality and excellence in higher education.

Aim of The Study

Main Aim of the study is to provide latest information in respect to bringing about changes in the higher education system in india.

The present study seeks to explore the contemporary higher education system. Though significant emphasis has been given to improve and in hence the quality of higher education system. It is to suggest formulating new policies programme and reforms in the direction of higher education system of india.

A great void is witnessed in translating the theory into practice. In the face of modern day world academia Indian higher education system still needs to pave a long path way until in makes to the ultimate quality education to make it fit enough to shine amidst the top ranking institutes of world repute. The paper offers a deep probing into the most practiced problems faced by the institutes of higher education in India to be it designing an appropriate and action based curriculum the research capabilities of faculty members. The study also charters financial challenges faced by the higher academia. Finally the study offers a set of constructive measures which can be employed to control the malpractices in higher education system to chisel it for belter.

Current scenarion of higher education

Post independence, India has witnessed an above average growth the number of higher educational institutions vis-à-vis its population.

At that time there were just about 20 Universities and 500 colleges. At present time, these numbers have grown exponentially. India has a total of 958 Universities, 54 Central Universities, 416 State Universities, 364 Private Universities, 124 deemed universities and National importance Institution 40. Apart from there are situated near about 60000 colleges in the country.

Problems and challenges in higher education

Post Independence, there are much needed to build up the sound and effective higher education system in india. Number of Challenges is being faced to creat strong base of higher education system. Today india is called as the name of youth country. At present time. There are near about 50 crore youth population in india. Each and every government like to creat more and more job opportunity. They are trying to make new education policies and programme. But unfortunately there is no made the effective and efficient system of higher education system in our country. So far in the changing scenario of world, number of problems and challenges which are being faced in the field of higher education in India are followings

1. In the country, higher education has different-different dimensions of qualityful education related to contents, mode of delivery facilities, infrastructures and employability. Today, the most important challenge have to ensure quality in higher education in india. In this direction some institutions have got global recognition for excellence.
2. An important problem faced by education institutions is the autonomy related to framing course curriculum which resulted in course structure that is almost outdated. The curriculum is not promoted, encouraged entrepreneurship and innovative ideas in students communities.

3. The key problems faced by higher education institutes have shortage of faculty and incompetent Govt. educational systems.
4. Industry participation in relation to research faculty exchange programme and curriculum development has been very insufficient level of placement performance of the universities and colleges have been very low level due to lack of co-ordination between Job-seeking students and employers.
5. It is necessary to focus here that regulatory system of higher education has not been effective In india due to lack of sound and better education policies. Role of private sector should be well defined. Higher education system is facing much more problems due to our centralized system.
6. The main motive of higher education is not to earn profit but also promote social welfare in the society. Today there needs to check the private, foreign investment and interferences higher education. Particularly private and foreign sector should be brought under the purview of law for requirement of minimum land, full built up and constructed area of infrastructure including building, library and hostels. It would be the much more challenging work for private sector in this segment without return unless and until set objectives are to meet corporate social responsibility.
7. Various commissions set up by the government have recommended the many restrictions on fees structure which are charging in different-different way for different-different courses.
8. As per data for 2009-10, GER was 17% males in higher education in india as compared to 12.7% for females. Apart from the overall GER for the population was 15% compared figure for sc and st are 11.1% and 10.3% respectively. In india, region variations are more significant. Uttar pardesh have GER of 10.9 while Delhi has the GER of 47.9. Above figure reveals the significant imbalances in higher education system.
9. Higher education institution are being run by public sector with weak and poor infrastructures and facilities. There is no proper system the supply of courses which seems to be very unequal positions of available seats compared to capacity.
10. In case of Indian education system, skill and man power are not proper and perfectly correlated in generating employment. By and large educated unemployment needs to highlight the employment linked courses.
11. Regulatory environment in higher education is very complexed in india due to uncertain role of government as well as private sector. There is much needed to focus on shortage of financial resources and hurdles of higher education.
12. In india, students who are engaged in higher education system are in very poor position we have to ensure equal opportunity and easy access in higher education. Challenges are emerging day by day in comparison of region and gender.

13. According to information provided by the NAAC as on 2010, In the country level higher education institutions were not accredited to extent of 25%. It is important to say here. The accredited institutions including 30% universities and 45% colleges have got the "A Level" rank in respect of quality.
14. In view of gross enrolment ratio, GER that is near about 15% in india which shows very poor performance as compared to developed country. Enrolment levels are rising in school education system. Higher education institutions are increasing to meet the growing demand in country.
15. In the country, there is much needed to focus on research in higher education institutions which are caused to shortage of resources, facilities and very limited qualityful faculty to advise the students.
16. According to regulations prescribed by AICTE illegal and indirect investment is prohibited to set up technical institutions where as 100% investment in higher education is permitted under the FDI policy.
17. Indian education system is challenged on the issue of centralization, transparency professionalism lack of accountability and bureaucratic structure. The burden of administrative function of university has increased due to increasing the number of affiliated colleges and students. Main focus of academic and research has been shifted.
18. At present, higher education institutions are facing the important challenges. challenges due to shortage of financial resources. As per 12th five year plan document, state universities and their affiliated colleges that more than 90% of the enforcement suffer from governance, fund constraints and poor government loading to poor quality. The paper says that near about 18% of all government education has spent as compared to 1.12% spending of GDP. While there is needed to increase to 25% of the total education expenditure and 1.5% of GDP.
19. It would be more challenging to impose the service tax on transactions provided by the higher institutions in the past. It is found that income tax department exercises the power for discriminatory rate which led the number of litigations and public resentment.

Opportunities in Higher Education

In order to archive 30% GER, the very deliberately strong target has been designed in the higher education system of india up to 2020. It is regarded that GER will be doubled in coming 8-10 years. According to data provided by NUPA, there are required the additions investment of rs 9.5 lakh crore (USD 190 BN) to achieve this target including capital as well as operating expenditure which are needed to make in the next 8 years. As mentions in the 11th five year plan document, total allocations was made for the Rs 2.7 lakh crore (USD 55 BN) in higher education which was allotted equal to 30% that is limited support to higher education. In order to

develop sound base of higher education in india in the field of investment should be made higher education by the government. Apart from it, there is much needed to play extra ordinary role by the private sector.

Participating the private sector, the picture of higher education in india has been completely changed. In addition to higher education is developing very significantly. As per provided data by MHRD, GER as well as number of enrolment have increased from 12.4% and 15.5m in 2006-07, 15% and 17.3 m in 2009-10. These data shows that number of young working age people are increasing instead of drop out. Enrolment of the people age group 15-24 year has increased from 30 m.m for 2004-05 to near about 60 m.m for 2009-10. This figure shows that bright opportunity for private as foreign sector are seeming to play effective and efficient in higher education in India.

Conclusion

For building of sound base in higher education the various type of rules and regulation are being made time to time, which are being brought about lot of changes in the field of education sector. In the five years plans lot of provisions has been made in the higher education sector to promote higher education as well as two increases GER. The quality of teaching, learning and research needs to be upgraded if india is to evolve as a world class educational hub. There are much more opportunities for private sector investment. As public expenditure are not enough to meet the burgeoning requirement. Existing and future opportunities for private and foreign sector participation are growing at significant rate. The central and state government is making more provisions to enhance and access of higher education to rural area in india. Role of regulatory body of higher education like UGC and AICTE should be made more effective and try to control the unhealthy and malpractices in higher education system of India.

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