

# Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education; An Overview

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## Abstract

A developed nation is inevitably an educated nation. Indian higher Education system is the third largest in the world, next to the United States and China. Since Independence India as a developing nation is continuously progressing in the education field. Although there have been a lot of challenges to higher education system of India but equally have lot of opportunities to overcome these challenges and to make higher education system much better. It needs greater transparency and accountability, the role of colleges and universities in the new millennium, and emerging scientific research on how people learn is of utmost important. India need well skilled and highly educated people who can drive our economy forward. India provides highly skilled people to other countries therefore; it is very easy for India to transfer our country from a developing nation to a developed nation. The current study aims to highlight the challenges and to point out the opportunities in higher education system in India.

**Keywords:** liberal, innovations, opportunity, education system, challenges, collaborative

## Introduction

Education is the most important part of persons life. Where we act an opportunity to learn and experience many new things. This phase of a person's life is a time when personality gets shaped, confidence is built and prepares for the future. Education also results to increase in social status, social health, economic growth and the helps the nation as a whole.

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Higher education system cannots academic institutional bodies that include University, college and vocational schools. These bodies prepare professionals for all sections of the economy. In a vibrant system, Institutions of Higher learning's are enablers of research, innovations and entrepreneurship, addressing problems facing society, nations and preparing individual for lives & careers. Thus, they play a very important role in shaping our future.

Through higher education in India has come a long way since Independence. It is on a difficult stride and indeed in crisis. Arguably the greatest challenges facing higher education in India are the cronic shortage of Faculty.

Facts corroborate that an estimation of thirty to forty percent of faculty positions are unfilled. Most faculty lack quality in teaching, research & training, out dated rigid curricula and absence of employer engagement in the course content & skills development, very few opportunities for inter disciplinary learning.

Pedagogy and assessment are focused or input and rote learning, students have little opportunities to develop a wider range of transversal range of skills including critical thinking, analytical reasoning, problem solving and collaborative working.

There are many basic problems faced by higher education system in India. These include inadequate infrastructure and facilities, vacant seats in academic field and poor faculty thereof, low student enrolment rate, out dated and old teaching methods, declining research standards, unmotivated students, overcrowded and small classrooms and widespread geographic, income, gender, and ethnic imbalances. Apart from these concerns relating to deteriorating standards and lack of facilities, there is



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reported exploitation of rural area students by many private education providers.

1. The demand - supply gap: India has a very low rate of enrolment in higher education (18%) as compared China (26%) and 36% in Brazil. There is huge demand - supply gap. By 2020, the Indian government aims to achieve 30% gross enrolment in higher education, which mean providing 40 million university places with an increase of 14 million in six years.
2. Inadequate facilities and infrastructure : In India, many of the universities don't have adequate infrastructure or facilities to teach students. Even many private universities are running courses without classrooms. Internet and Wi - Fi facility is still out of reach of many students.
3. Lower level of teaching quality : Our education system is torture by issue of quality in many of its institutions and universities. many of the issues like shortage of faculty, poor quality teaching, Traditional teaching methods, outdated and rigid curricula and pedagogy, lack of accountability and quality assurance and separation of research and teaching are raising questions on Indian education system.
4. Research constraints: India has a very low level of PhD enrolment. India does not have enough high quality researchers. In Indian education system there is a lack of early stage research experience; a weak ecosystem for creativity and innovation, and low levels of Industry engagement.
5. Uneven growth and access to opportunity : In India, access to higher education is uneven in enrolment across population groups and geographies. This uneven growth of higher education is major challenge for India. India has the largest number of out - of school students in the world, more than the whole of sub - Sharan Africa, and also 69% of India's population still lives on less education system is more focused on theoretical knowledge rather than practical knowledge. In many jobs there is also a minimum requirement of percentage which is high.
6. Lack of involvement in and control of educational matters by Professors: Most of the professors or higher authorities to not like to take part in education related activities. They stick to their own growth.
7. Traditional methods of teaching: Professors still stick to those old methods of teaching like board, marker. They don't like to use audio visual aids in teaching. Also they are not up to date with the information available and what global industry demands.
8. Abroad settlement after education: Many students after doing IITs and IIM try to search opportunities in foreign countries like Australia, USA, and Canada etc. They look forward for MNCs and get settled abroad. There must be a fix criteria that students after higher education have serve his country first.
9. Security and Confidentiality: Collages have to Increased security and confidentiality with role - based permissions to user, there will be proper record of time and attendance system of students and as well as teachers.
10. Quota system: Bringing the reservation and quota system for different categories in education lost its quality. Even deserving candidates of general categories are ignored and on quota we have to select other person from reserved category even though he is not suitable.
11. Quality - Reflecting on : National Assessment and Accreditation Council gave a report in which the concern was over the fact that two thirds (68%) of the country's universities and 90% of its colleges are "of middling or poor quality" and that well over half of the teaching faculty in India's colleges does not have the appropriate degree qualifications.
12. Enrolment: The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of India in higher education is only 15% which is quite low as compared to the developed as well as, other developing countries. With the increase of enrolments at school level, the supply of higher education institutes is insufficient to meet the growing demand in the country.
13. Equity: There is no equity in GER among different sects of the society. According to previous studies the GER in higher education in India among male and female varies to a greater extent. There are regional variations too some states have high GER while as some is quite behind the national GER which reflect a significant imbalances within the higher education system.
14. Quality: Quality in higher education is a multi-dimensional, multilevel, and a dynamic concept. Ensuring quality in higher education is amongst the foremost challenges being faced in India today. However, Government is continuously focusing on the quality education. Still Large number of Colleges and universities in India are unable to meet the minimum requirements laid down by the UGC and our universities are not in a position to mar its place among the top universities of the world.
15. Infrastructure: Poor infrastructure is another challenge to the higher education system of India particularly the institutes run by the public sector suffer from poor physical facilities and infrastructure. There are large number of colleges education system is more focused on theoretical knowledge rather than practical knowledge. In many jobs there is also a minimum requirement of percentage which is high.
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25. **Infrastructure:** Poor infrastructure is another challenge to the higher education system of India particularly the institutes run by the public sector suffer from poor physical facilities and infrastructure.
26. **Student Centred Education and Dynamic Methods:** Methods of higher education also have to be appropriate to the needs of learning to learning to learn, learning to do, learning to be and learning to become. Student - centred education and employment of dynamic methods of education will require from teachers new attitudes and new skills. Methods of teaching through lectures will have to subordinate to the methods that will lay stress on self - study, personal consultation between teachers and pupils, and dynamic sessions of seminars and workshops. Methods of distance education will have to be employed on a vast scale.
27. **Examination Reforms:** Examination reforms, gradually shifting from the terminal, annual and semester examinations to regular and continuous assessment of student's performance in learning must be implemented.
28. **To increase Quantity of Universities:** We need more universities because we are more in number and present number of universities is too less. On 13th June, 2005 Government of India constituted a high level advisory body known as National Knowledge Commission (NKC) to advise the PM about the state of education in India and measures needed to reform this sector. It was headed by Sam Pitroda and submitted its report in November 2007. NKC has recommended setting up of 1500. Universities by 2015 so that gross enrolment ratio increases to 15 percent. It has also called for establishing an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE) to monitor the quality of overall higher education in India.
29. **Cross Culture programmes :** After education, tour to every the places in India and world as far as possible with the cooperation of government is necessary so that one can understand about people, culture, arts, literature, religions, technological developments and progress of human society in the world quality in all aspects of academic activities. The self - finance colleges must come forward for accreditation and fulfill the requirements of accreditation. Universities and Colleges should realise the need for quality education and come forward with action plan for improving quality in higher educational institutions.
30. **World Class Education:** Indian government is not giving priority to the development of Standard in education. India must aspire for the international standard in education. Many national universities like in the USA, UK, Australia, etc. allow studies in higher education for foreign students in their countries and through correspondence courses as well. In the same way India Universities of world class education can also offer courses of studies to foreign students taking advantage of the globalization process. To achieve that goal it must adopt uniform international syllabus in its educational institutions.
31. **Personality Development:** Finally, education must be for the flowering of personality but not for the suppression of creativity or natural skill. In the globalized world opportunity for the educated people are naturally ample in scope. As a result business process outsourcing (BPO) activities have increased competition in the world trade leading towards the production of quality goods

and their easy availability everywhere in the world market. That is the way the world can be developed for peace, prosperity and progress by able and skilful men.

32. High-tech Libraries: Our universities libraries have a very good collection of books, but they are all in mess. A library must be online and conducive for serious study. Indian universities should concentrate more on providing quality education which is comparable to that of international standards.

#### **Aim of the Study**

1. To make aware about challenges and opportunities existing in our Education system of higher Education.
2. To inculcate critical thinking, analytical reasoning problem solving and collaborative working among students.
3. we will be able to change the demands of the society change the economy and global world

#### **Conclusion**

After independence, there has been tremendous increase in higher education Institutions of learning in all disciplines. But still India is way behind in providing world class education. Today, India is one of the fastest growing countries of the world with the annual growth rate going above 9%. In order to sustain that rate of growth, there is need to increase the number of institutes with quality education. To achieve and reach the future requirements there is an urgent need to relook at the Financial Resources, Education Policies, Access and Equity, Quality Standards, Relevance and at the end the Responsiveness.

To attain and sustain international quality, certain components are particularly relevant. There must be careful selection of staff and continuous staff development, in particular through the promotion of appropriate programs for academic development, including learning methodology or teaching. We must focus on mobility between countries, between higher education institutions and the world of work, as well as student mobility within and between countries. So that they can learn about working environment. Internal self - evaluation and external review must be

conducted openly and periodically by independent specialists, if possible with international experts.

If we are talk about India, we are providing skilled and educated people to world. Why we are unable to utilize their potential to covert our country from developing to developed country. We must create some parameters, to indulge educated people for driving our economy forward. We are moving towards an era which would be defined by the parameters of knowledge.

We need an educational system that is modern / advanced, liberal and can adapt to the changing demands of a changing society, a changing economy and a changing global world. Indian higher education system and regulatory bodies must identify the key issues and quickly make policies to remove those hurdles. Only one or two universities can't make much difference. If the government welcomes such initiatives which drive our education system forward, then future will be ours. We will be able to match and compete with other countries and the dream to be the world's greatest economy won't be difficult to achieve.

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