

**Higher Education In India: Issues And Challenges****Dr. Ravi S. Dalawai**

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**Abstract:**

*Education plays the most important in shaping a countries future. After USA and China. Indian higher education system is the third largest in the world. Since independence India as a developing nation is contentiously progressing in the education field. Though India's Higher Education system is the largest in the world in terms of number of institutions it has numerous problems and issues. The rapid expansion of the higher education system at the same time has brought several pertinent issues related to equity, efficiency, excellence and access to higher education in the country.*

*This paper aims to identify emerging issues and challenges in the field of higher Education in India.*

**Key words:** Higher Education new education policy ,institutions challenges

**Introduction :**

India has been always been a land of scholars and learners in ancient times also, India was regarded all over the world for its universities like Taxila, Nalanda, Vikrashila and its scholars. India with a growing population has the largest youth. Creating jobs opportunities to utilize this huge human resources is through education. Higher education provides specialized knowledge and skilled persons for national development. Higher education in India has experienced phenomenal expansion since independence. At present there is a huge demand for scientist, engineers, technologists, doctors, and teachers from India and this is why we see many Indians working in every corner of the world. Higher Education provides opportunities to the people to reflect on the critical social, cultural, moral economics and spiritual issues facing humanity.

**Higher Education In India:**

Framework of higher education in India is very complex. It includes various type of institutions like universities, colleges, institutes of national importance, polytechnics etc. Universities are formed by government of India by an act of parliament which are responsible for arranging and distribution resources required by university grant commission(UGC). State universities, Deemed universities (aided and unaided) and private

universities. India has a federal set-up and the Indian constitution places education as a concurrent responsibility of both the centre and state. While the centre co-ordinates and fixed standards in higher and technical education, school education the responsibility of state. Under the department of higher education there are several regulatory bodies and research councils which are responsible for the higher education in India.

**Challenges In Higher Education In India**

Though we are in our 72<sup>nd</sup> year of independence our education system still has not been developed fully. We are not able to list single universities in top 100 universities of the world. Various governments during these decades tried to boost the education system and implemented various reduction places but they were not sufficient to put a tough competition to other universities around the world. UGC is continuously working and focussing on quality education in higher education sector. Some of the basic challenges in higher education system in India are discussed below.

**Enrolment:**

Our education system sees vast differences in genders and social divisions in enrolment. Total enrolment in higher education has been estimated to be 34.6 million with 18.6 millions boys and 16 million girls. Girls constitute 46.2% of the total enrolment. Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher

education in India is 24.5% which is calculated for 18-23 years of age group GER

**India HIGHER Education System Challenges and suggestion** Sahil Sharma and Punmendu Sharma For male population is 25.4% and female it is 23.5%. For Scheduled Castes, it is 19.9% and for Scheduled Tribes, it is 14.2% as compared to the national GER, of 24.5% 67% students belong to Muslim Minority and 1.97% is from other Minority Community Muslim Minority has more male students than female where as other Minority has more females than males.

Australia, Russian and the USA, to name a few examples, have Enrolment Rate (GER) upwards of 75 percent. The Ministry of Human resources & Development had set a target of a 30 percent for India by 2020.

**Low levels of teaching Quality:** Ensuring quality in higher education is amongst the foremost challenges being faced in India today. Larger numbers of colleges and universities in India are unable to meet the minimum requirements laid down by the UGC and our universities are not in position to mark its place among the top universities of the world. Many of the issues like lack of faculty, poor quality teaching. Traditional teaching methods out dated and rigid curriculum, lack of accountability and quality assurance and separation of research and teaching raise questions on Indian education system. Both the staff and the students alike are not up to date with the information available and what global industry demands.

Good textbooks and quality translation from the original English books are must if a student's is to make progress.

### **Research and Innovation:**

There is inadequate focus on research in higher education institutes. There are insufficient resources and facilities as well as limited numbers of quality faculty to advise students. Most of the research scholars are without fellowships or not getting their fellowship on time which directly or indirectly affects their research. More over, Indian Higher Education institutes are poorly connected to research centres. So this is another of challenges to the higher education in India.

Increasing low quality, money making Institutes: Heavy privatization of education sector has in some way spoiled the value of education and has become

1. All India survey on Higher Education, 2015-16
2. Higher education in India Challenges and issues Dr. K Kamar Jahan and Dr D Christy Selvarni
3. Higher education in India Emerging issues, challenges and suggestions Mrs. Mukesh Chahal

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/a-blueprint-for-higher-education/article7522994.exe>

business. Politician, realtors, businessmen's women – basically anybody who wants to mint some serious cash, start to open colleges collection of heavy fees and donations has made these institutions as business models rather than education providers.

**Inadequate facilities and infrastructure:** Many of the universities do not have adequate infrastructure or facilities to teach students. Even many private universities are running courses without classrooms. Internet WI-Fi facility is still out of reach of many students Government colleges and institutes fail heavily in infrastructure facilities. Many colleges do not own their own land or building Canteen facilities, drinking water and students from rural literally absent in many government colleges which make students from rural areas to study private institutions where the institute's goal is to make money.

**Non-existent foreign campuses in India:** Many students travel to other countries in need of quality higher education. These institutes have either minimal collaboration with private institutions or no campuses in our country. The foreign education providers Bill can be more effective if stops trying to control and regulate universities and instead be similar to their Singapore and Dubai counterparts – granting quick permissions and subsidies. These countries are quickly emerging as top quality higher education hubs for students from around the world.

### **Faculty:**

Huge number of institutions does not have teaching Faculty and to add to this the state education system fails to attract and retain well qualified teachers have been posing challenges to quality education for many years. Large numbers of NET/PhD candidates are unemployed even there lost of vacancies in higher education these deserving



qualified candidates either remain as guest faculty or part time lectures for less salary or are then applying in other department which is a biggest blow to the higher education system. Recruitment of the faculty is always a problem.

Choice of the curriculum or course: Choice on the course or curriculum in Indian education system is both rigid and statement for a large period of time. With no choice to pursue education of their interested subject students are compelled to choose courses which they do not have aspiration for and this return reduces student's interest. And as these courses are not market driven most of the educated youth remain unemployed or undereducated. This has severe effect on the demographic dividend of our country.

**Suggestions Improving the System of Higher Education**

Some of the suggestion to improve the higher education system is listed below

I. There should be a good infrastructure of colleges and universities which may attract the students.

II. Government must promote collaboration between Indian higher education institutes and top International institutes and generates linkages between national and top research laboratories and research centres of top institutes for better quality and collaborative research .

III. Focus on providing flexibility to graduate students by providing them such courses in which they can achieve excellence ,gain deeper knowledge of subject so that they get jobs after recruitment in the companies which would reduce unnecessary rush to the higher education

IV. Institutes both public and private must be away from the political affiliations, favouritism; money making process should be out of education system etc.

V. There should be a multidisciplinary approach in higher education so that student's knowledge may not be restricted only up to his own subjects. Etc.

VI. Recent revamping of the UGC and AICTE by the government must ensure the development of higher education.

VII. Teachers and faculty of the government and aided colleges must be made permanent as lot of qualified candidate's remains as part time faculty.

Viii. Provision of canteens, good library, sports equipments and toilet facilities in rural areas makes ennoblement of these students increase.

ix. Recently the government of India to include sports into the main curriculum is a welcome approach in developing overall personality of the students.

X. Students from economically backward families must essentially be given fully subsidized education.

### **Conclusion:**

Education is a process by which a person's body, mind and character are formed and strengthened. The present study revealed the current scenario of the higher education in India and certain suggestion to improve it has also been cited.

Accordingly the thrust of public policy for higher education in India has to be to maintain the high standards of education keeping pace with development that take place in the fields of knowledge and technology. The government, Institutions and students alike have to march forward in creating India has an educational hub the near future.

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