

# THE ISSUES AND CHALLENGS IN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

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## ABSTRACT

Higher education system plays an important role for the country's overall development which includes industrial, social, economic etc. Indian higher education system is the third largest with respect to student enrolment in the world, next to the United States and China. Since independence, India as a developing nation is contentiously progressing in the education field. Although there have been 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. India need well skilled and highly educated people who can drive our country economy forward. The role of Indian higher education institutes such as colleges and universities in the present time is to provide quality based education in the field of education, research etc to empower youth for self sustainability. This paper includes the key challenges and issues that India is currently facing in higher education .

**Key Words** : Higher education system, Challenges and issues, Colleges, Universities.

## Introduction

Higher education means different things to different people. If we talk about higher education in terms of level, it means to gain higher educational qualification by the teaching learning process in the higher educational institutes such as colleges and universities. Moreover higher education imparts knowledge, develops the student's ability and also give him/her a wider perspective of the world around. Higher education becomes input to the growth and development of industry and also seen as an opportunity to participate in the development process of the individual through a flexible education mode. The 'Right of Education Act' which stipulates compulsory and free education to all children within the age group of 6 – 14 years, has brought about a revolution in the education system of the country with statistics revealing a staggering enrolment in schools for the past few years. The involvement of private sector in higher education has seen drastic changes in the field. Today over 60% of higher education institutions in India are promoted by the private sector. This has accelerated establishment of institutes which have originated over the last decade making India home to the largest number Higher Education institutions in the world, with student enrolments at the second highest (during 2013-14). The number of Universities has increased more than 35 times from 20 in 1950 to 677 in 2014. Despite these numbers, international education rating agencies have not placed many of these institutions within the best of the world ranking. India has failed to produce world class universities till now.

## Higher Education in India :

In the Indian higher education system, higher education starts after the 10+2 [i.e. ten years of primary and secondary education followed by two years of senior secondary education]. Framework of higher education in India is very complex. It includes various type of institutions like colleges, universities, institutes of national importance , polytechnics etc. Universities are also of different types like central universities which are formed by government of India, by an act of parliament which are responsible for arranging and distributing 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 is 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. India is a second largest population country in the world and it has more than 50 millions of young people aged between 18 to 23 years. The big market or business sector of India offers a huge opportunities for development of the higher education sector in India.

### **Growth of Higher Education Sector**

As higher education systems grow and diversify, society is increasingly concerned about the quality of programmes, public assessments and international rankings of higher education institutions. However these comparisons tend to overemphasise research performance as a yardstick of institutional value. If these processes fail to address the quality of teaching, it is in part because measuring teaching quality is challenging ( Hernard, 2008).

India has always been a land of scholars and learners. In ancient time also, India was regarded all over the world for its universities like Taxila, Nalanda, Vikramshila and its scholars. By independence India had 20 universities, 500 colleges enrolling about 2,30,000 students. Since independence India has progressed significantly in terms of higher education statistics. This number has increased to 659 Universities and 33023 colleges up to December 2011-12. Central Government and State Governments are trying to nurture talent through focusing on the number of Universities and colleges for expansion of higher educations.

### **Challenges and Issues with Higher Education in India :**

Even though we spent 73 years after independence still our education system has not been developed fully We are not able to list a single university in top 50 universities of the world. Various governments changed during these seven decades. They tried to boost the education system and implemented various education policies but they were not sufficient to put an example for the universe. UGC is continuously working and focusing on quality education in higher education sector. There are many issues related to higher education in India as follows.

**Teaching Quality:** The teaching quality is decreasing in Indian higher education system. Teachers are not well trained and qualified for the job they are assigned to. Some colleges recruit young graduates who have no experience or knowledge.

**Privatization :** Privatization is also one of the big problems of that Indian higher education faces. Privatization of higher education is the way to go. However just privatization is not going to solve the problem. The donation and fees structure of structure of private colleges and universities may become burden to Indian poor and middle class people. They may become deprive of the higher education even though they are eligible and interested. Higher education system need to foster the culture of creativity, imagination and learning new skills in young students.

**Quota system :** Talent and merit is more important than your identity. However quota system is still a challenge. Debating quota system is very controversial. But if you are being honest then quota is not good for the quality of higher education.

**Political Factor :** Political influence is also a bad thing and an issue with higher education. Governing bodies do not want any political influence or interference in their affair. Recruitment committee members should not appoint candidates based on their caste, money and political influence. They should give preference to their talent, experience and merit.

**Mushrooming of Low Quality Institutes :** Mushrooming of Low Quality Institutes all over the country is not good for the higher education. These new colleges have lack capacity and they are all about fleecing money from students and their parents. There is too much glamour and less quality of education.

### **Conclusion**

Finally I will conclude by saying for any country both primary and higher education are needed. Primary education has its own importance just like higher education has its own importance. However higher education is very important for growing our economy. In this paper We have presented the present situation of India in higher education system. We also identify the challenges and issues like teaching quality, quota system, privatization, political factor, mushrooming low quality institutes etc

in the higher education . Higher education in India has many challenges and issues. We need to talk and discuss about them and highlight so that government can resolve such issues. We need to read more articles and reports to get an idea about state of higher education in India at present.

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