

Saarth

E-Journal of Research

ISSN NO: 2395-339X

Issues and Challenges of Higher Education in India

Dr. Jayesh N. Barot

Introduction

There is a great need to revolution in higher education. Actually speaking, the higher education sector has expanded rapidly in the country. Yet there is inequality in growth, Access and distribution. One of the major challenges is to enhance the access to higher education. The state has a major role to play in this regard. Besides increasing investment and opening new colleges and universities, it has to create a proper regulatory environment where good quality private service providers are attracted. There is confusion as regards entry, fees and the type of courses/programs that can be offered. This has resulted in an unhealthy nexus between politicians, Government and private service providers. Various Committees and statutory bodies have reviewed the higher education scenario in the country and have recommended future courses of action at different intervals.

Following are identified as specific issues and challenges of higher education in India that need to be addressed.

The country lacks the critical mass in higher education. Its gross enrolment ratio (GER) is a mere 11 percent compared to China's 20 percent, the USA's 83 percent and South Korea's 91 percent. This means that in comparison to India, China has double the number of students pursuing higher education.

The overall scenario of higher education in India does not match with the global Quality standards. Hence, There is enough justification for an increased assessment of the Quality of the Country's of the country's educational institutions.

Critical appraisals undertaken by the governmental committees and independent Academician have highlighted the crisis confronting the system: 'Increasing educated unemployment; weakening of student motivation; Increasing unrest and indiscipline on the campuses; frequent collapse of administration; deterioration of standards: and Above all, the demoralizing effect of the irrelevance and purposelessness of most of what is being done.' While the politicians and policy makers have often spoken about the need for radical reconstruction of the system, what has been achieved in reality is only moderate reformism.

Major Issues in Indian Higher Education

As India strives to compete in a globalised economy in areas that require highly trained professionals, the quality of higher education becomes increasingly important. So far, India's large, Educated population base and its reservoir of at least moderately well-trained university graduates have aided the country in moving ahead, but the competition is fierce; from china in particular. Other countries are also upgrading higher education with the aim of building world class universities. Many IIT graduates well trained in technology have chosen not to contribute their skills to the burgeoning technology sector in India; perhaps half leave the country immediately upon graduation to pursue advanced studies abroad, and most do not return.

Dr. Jayesh N. Barot, Principal, Smt. R. M. Prajapati Arts, College, Satlasana

Saarth

E-Journal of Research

ISSN NO: 2395-339X

A stunning 86 percent of Indian students in the fields of science and technology who obtain degrees in the United States do not return home immediately following their graduation. A body of dedicated and able teachers work at the IITs and IIMs, but the lure of jobs abroad and in the private sector makes it increasingly difficult to lure the best academic profession.

The present system of higher education does not serve the purpose for which it has been started. In general education itself has become so profitable a business that quality is lost in the increase of quantity of professional institutions with quota system and politicization adding fuel to the fire of spoil system, thereby increasing unemployment of graduates without quick relief to mitigate their sufferings in the job market of the country.

Most observers of higher education in India feel that performance of higher education institutions has been less than satisfactory in terms of access, equity and quality. Now there is an urgent need to work for the development of the educational sector to meet the need of the emerging opportunities, increasing younger generation population and challenges of the 21st century.

Major Challenges in Indian Higher Education

Since we have got Independence we are facing challenges to establish a great and strong education system. India recognizes that the new global scenario poses unprecedented challenges for the higher education systems. The University Grants Commission has appropriately stated that a whole range of skills will be demanded from the graduates of humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and commerce, management, medicine or engineering.

India can no longer continue the model of general education as it has been persisting in for the large bulk of the student population. Rather, it requires a major investment to make student population. Rather, it requires a major investment to make human resource productive by coupling the older general disciplines of humanities, social sciences, natural science and commerce to their application in the new economy and having adequate field based experience to enhance knowledge with skills and develop appropriate attitudes.

There are many basic problems facing higher education in India today. These include inadequate infrastructure and facilities. Large vacancies in faculty positions and poor faculty thereof, low student enrolment rate, outmoded teaching methods, declining research standards unmotivated students, overcrowded classrooms, and widespread geographic, income, gender, and ethnic imbalances. Apart from concerns relating to deteriorating standards, there is reported exploitation of student by many private providers. Ensuring equitable access to quality higher education for students coming from poor families is a major challenge. Students from poor background are put to further disadvantage since they are not academically prepared to crack highly competitive entrance examinations that have bias towards urban elite and rich students having access to private tuitions and coaching. Education in basic sciences and subjects that are not market friendly has suffered.

Research in higher education institutions is at its lowest ebb. There is an inadequate and diminishing financial support for higher education from the government and from society. Many colleges established in rural areas are non-viable, are under-enrolled and have extremely poor infrastructure and facilities with just a few teachers. A series of judicial

Saarth

E-Journal of Research

ISSN NO: 2395-339X

interventions over the last two decades and knee-jerk reaction of the government- both at the centre and state level and the regulatory bodies without proper understanding of the emerging market structure of higher education in India has further added confusion to the higher education landscape in the country, There is an absence of a well-informed reform agenda for higher education in the country. A few efforts made now and then are not rooted in the new global realities based on competition and increased mobility of students and workforce.

Some of the leading challenges before the higher education systems are continuous graduation of curriculum to keep in pace with rapid growth science and technology; globalization and the resultant challenge from the international universities; grooming of many private institutions without any method of insuring maintenance of quality and standard, need for adequate funding to meet the demands of various novel innovative programmes; developing a meaningful and purposeful interface between the universities, National Research Laboratories, industries, government and society, etc. ICT in higher education policy may not be able to completely overcome all these challenges though it may play a role in information and resource sharing.

There are so many people in various parts of country which are still out of reach. This is when we have emphasized more on our education programs and made our systems reachable to all areas. Government has to rethink to these areas it implement more on the policies. Money also plays a vital role for the education systems which needs to unique for all globally recognized syllabus and curricula. Take a look on our constitution too build good education systems. For that we need to have funds, but despite there was a large expenditure on the funds every year on Education where the fund goes and our systems remains intact.

Central government prepares policies and plan while responsibility of state government is run those policies on ground. The standard education facilities are higher in the states which are much rich. There is a need to change such defects from the country education systems which are much rich. There is a need to change such defects from the country education systems which only can be influenced by increasing funding and providing better facilities to students. But we know there is that area. So we have to work in this area. Government tries to make different policies which are implemented but quality never checked. Majority of fund goes in the pockets of officials working for this. There is a vast needs to improve the quality and standards.

The time now is to modernize our education system so that our country can get much more technically graduated people which can help our country to developed state. Today's youth always try to go foreign for his higher education as they have much better facilities and quality of their system. Can't we get they quality here itself? We have to stop this brain drainage so as avoid students to run away from country. Our government came and goes but systems remains intact

Higher education is extremely diverse and the challenges and issues faced by higher education institutions are just as diverse. The process of education is not merely digesting books. It is also about doing several co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that gives a broader meaning to life in general and education in particular. Opportunities for such holistic development are not enough in India. Facilities for the same are lacking or not easily accessible in India. Even where facilities exist, There is a lack of information about the same.

Saarth

E-Journal of Research

ISSN NO: 2395-339X

There are very few teachers and their knowledge is very insufficient. Most of the teachers are making money with tuitions. Most of students do not have any student-ship ethics, they just want marks in the subject and they study only for grabbing jobs. There is no creativity in students. our top class students are hard-worker but not innovative. They are not capable enough to produce new technology.