

HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA **(ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND SUGGESTIONS)**

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“Knowledge and education are not restricted to books. The purpose of education is to enable balanced growth of every dimension of a human being, which is not possible without innovation.”

PM Narendra Modi

Abstract-

Education is a very important factor for the development of a country. We should make it appropriate according to the time and changing scenario of the world. Education provides an opportunity to reflect upon the social, economic, cultural, and moral issues facing by a human being. India needs to focus on education for more educated and efficient people to drive our nation. In the world, there are many Indian who well known for their capabilities and skills. To develop India as a digital nation or to become a prosperous partner in global development, India has to strengthen higher education with research and development.

INTRODUCTION:-

Development of any nation solely depends on the quality of human resources; and good human resource is produced through quality education. Education provides people with an opportunity to reflect on the social, cultural, moral, economic, and spiritual issues and contributes towards the development through propagation of specialized knowledge and skills.

India, even after 71 years of its independence, is far away from the goal of universal literacy. The fact that India’s higher education system is churning out millions of graduates who are unemployable speaks of the need to improve the quality of education in the country. However, on a positive note, India is engaged in the use of higher education as a powerful tool to build a knowledge-based information society of the

21st Century. Indian professionals are considered among the best in the world and are in great demand. This signifies the inherent strength of the Indian educational system.

Education in India dates back to its early civilization time where teaching and learning process revolved around the 'Gurukul System'. It was a residential concept wherein the students were educated under the guidance of a "Guru" in different areas of religion, philosophy and science.

Present-day Scenario

India is dashing headlong towards economic success and modernization. It is counting on high-tech industries, such as IT and Biotechnology, to propel the nation to prosperity. Currently, Indian higher education system has many favorable factors to its advantage. India has a large higher education sector, the third largest in the world. It uses English as a principal language of higher education and research and has an extensive academic tradition. Academic liberty is appreciated and there are a small number of high-quality institutions that can form the foundation of quality education. The fact that State Government, rather than Central Government, maneuvers vital responsibility for higher education, creates a rather cumbersome structure, but the system allows for a diversity of policies and approaches.

Yet the weakness clearly outweighs the strengths. India educates approximately 10 per cent of its youths in higher education. Even though, none of its universities occupy a solid position at the top. A few of the best universities have some excellent departments and centers, and there are a small number of outstanding undergraduate colleges.

UGC recently released a report describing the current scenario of the Indian Higher Education System. It shows that despite the growing numbers of colleges and enrollments, it is not adequate enough to cater to the educational needs of the increasing young population.

ISSUES & CHALLENGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Teaching Quality: - The first issue that higher education in India is facing is decreasing teaching quality. Teachers are not well trained.

Financing:-Financing is also an issue with higher education in India. Yes India is already spending very much on higher education and it can't spend more. However if the quality of higher education has to be improved then more financing is needed.

Privatization:- Privatization is also a big problem that higher education faces. Privatization of higher education is the way to go. However just privatization is not going to solve the problem. You need to foster the culture of creativity, imagination and learning new skills in young students.

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

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 affairs.

Moral Issues: - Younger generation is not interested in serving their country and they are more interested in just taking up a job and a hefty pay package.

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

No Project Based Learning: - Higher education lack project based learning. Young graduates need to learn new skills especially vocational skills that can give them job. So we are not focusing on project based learning at all. Just theory is not enough; we also need practical knowledge is also.

No Strategy: - There is no strategy for higher education in India. We don't have foreign students coming to the country and studying here. Government has no plan for this and this is a big challenge.

Why Only Servicing Industry?

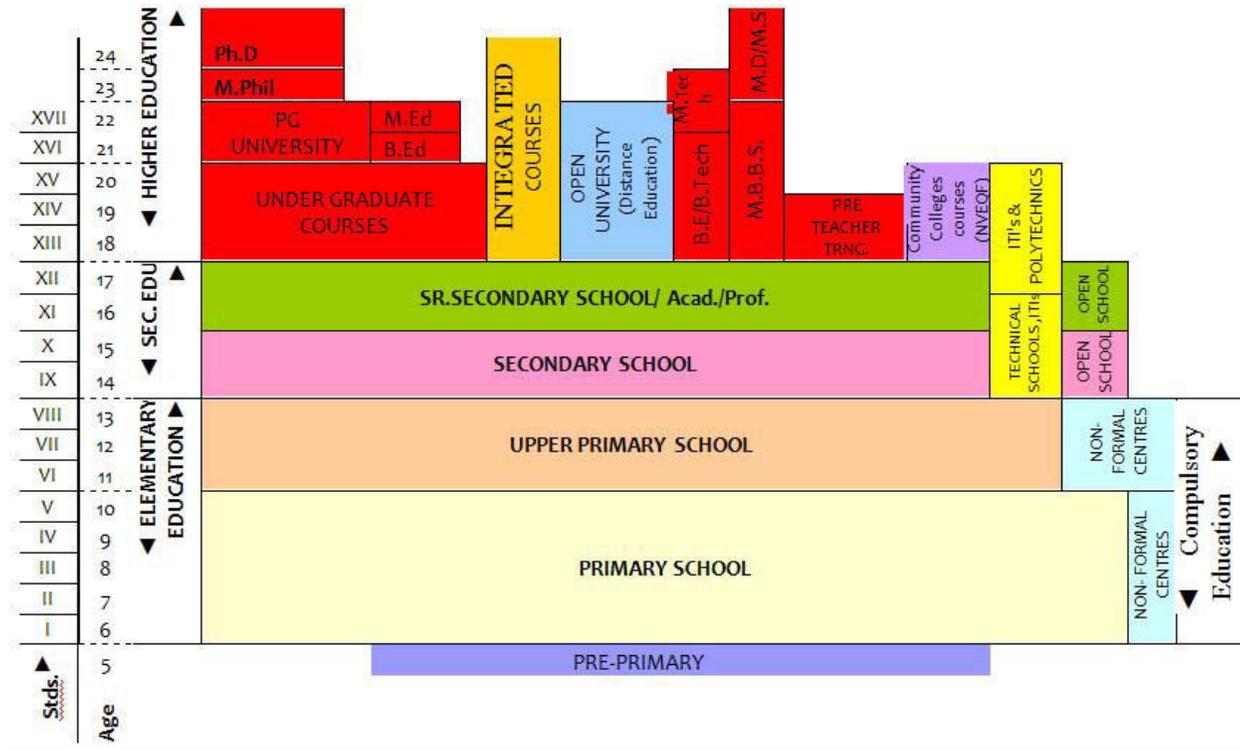
We are obsessed with servicing industry. We all want to get selected in campus selection so we love jobs in servicing sector only.

However higher education does not solve the problem when it comes to creating jobs in manufacturing sector. That is a big problem.

Research activity: - our government has no any strong strategy for promote quality research in India. In rural area of India my general category talented students is not doing research due to financial problem.

Overall Performance		
Aspects	Better Performing States	Slow Performing States
Gross enrolment ratio (GER)	Rajasthan, Delhi , Maharashtra, Uttarakhand	Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Nagaland
Drop out rates	Kerala , Goa, Haryana, Himachal,	Assam, Bihar, Mizoram, Meghalaya
Teacher appointments	Andhra Pradesh, J&K, Orissa, UP	W.Bengal, MP
Teacher training	Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Assam, Tamil Nadu	Bihar, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh
Construction of school buildings	Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan	W. Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand
Construction of additional classrooms	Gujarat, Karnataka, Assam, AP	Chattisgarh, UP, Manipur
% of Expenditure on Education & Training of total Budget	Assam, Maharashtra, Bihar Delhi	J&K, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh

Source : Fortress Team Research, DISE, MHRD and Presentation by Mr. Amit Kaushik UNDP Workshop on MDGs And Human Development Lucknow 2006



SUGGESTIONS:

Apart from the government initiative more is needed to be done. It includes promising greater autonomy to universities/colleges, developing brand new regulatory environment for upgrading existing institutions into the world-class category. Besides, one has to re look at the entire range of regulations that impact higher education which includes —teacher qualifications, recruitment system, funding system, credit scoring system, teacher progression (API), quality control of private institutions, procedures for financing central/state universities, methodology or schemes for grant of autonomy.

Re-study the old system to find the best regulations, which can help us in a number of ways, like whether the regulations have achieved the objective for which they were conceived; whether, in the current situation and the vision which holds for the future.

Introduce innovation in curriculum: The syllabus of Indian Higher Education System is outdated and not at all innovative. We need a curriculum which is progressive in nature and not despotic. Students should be allowed to pursue multiple courses in the first year and should be given an option to choose a specialization

after that. More focus should be there on innovation and projects rather than exams. However, this does not mean that exams should not be there at all. It's just that exams should be complimented with incentives for innovation.

Need for some young professors: The other problem with our Higher Educationist that we have all the professors above the age of 60s and 70s in the academic curriculum board. With due respect to them, there is also a need for some young professors now. This is because the younger ones would be more aware of the technological changes and the new age needs of the students. But as it's apparent, hardly any youngster goes in the line of teaching. The reason, certainly, is low pay. Once the pay of the lecturers is increased, the quality faculty will start coming in, the people who actually want to teach and who are worth the caliber of teaching.

Realize the power of alumni: One of the major drawbacks of Indian Higher Education is that we do not realize the power of alumni. Other than the few top institutes, the concept of alumni networking is non-existent. An alumnus networking is really helpful as they understand the various problems of the students being the part of the same institute once. Also, alumni are themselves eager of sharing their academic excellence and experience with the students; it's just that the system needs to be more transparent.

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