Government Educational Institutions: Current Scenario and Challenges

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Abstract: India's secured third position in the world for having higher education system (Singh, 2011; Sheikh, 2017). Education helps in the economic development of the country (Tilak, 2007). As per Report of University Grants Commission in India, there are 409 state universities, 127 deemed to be universities, 50 central universities, and 349 private Universities. Recently UGC has introduced a Learning Outcome-based Curriculum framework. This paper attempts to present the current Scenario and Challenges in Government Educational Institutions. There is a trend of sectoral based approach which focused on providing the skills needed for the particular sector. Shri Vishwakarma Skill University set up by the Government of Haryana focuses on academic-industry collaboration and aims at developing skill-based education in various emerging sectors. Government Institutions are also promoting Mentorship Practices for grooming and molding the overall personality of the students. Despite that government, institutions have also faced some challenges viz Plagiarism, Political Interference, faculty shortage that hampers Quality Education. In the end, few suggestions have been provided that can be incorporated in Education policy.

Keywords: *Government, Education, Scenario, Challenges*

Introduction-

The higher education in India consists of Universities, colleges, deemed to be Universities and other Research institutions. India's secured third position in the world for having higher education system (Singh, 2011; Sheikh, 2017). For the economic development Education plays a vital role for any country (Tilak, 2007). There is a trend of sectoral based approach which focused on providing the skills needed for the particular sector. Shri Vishwakarma Skill University set up by the Government of Haryana focuses on academic-industry collaboration and aims at developing skill-based education in various emerging sectors. Government Institutions are also promoting Mentorship Practices for grooming and molding the overall personality of the students. Despite that government, institutions have also faced some challenges viz Plagiarism,

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Political Interference, faculty shortage that hampers Quality Education. The current Scenario and Challenges in Government Educational Institutions are-

1. **Current Scenario**

a) Sectoral Based Institutions- There is a trend of sectoral based Institutions. The aim of these institutions is to provide sector-based skills programs that help students engaged in specific sectors. For example, the National Institute of Fashion Design aims as providing innovative fashion education to students that will be valuable to industry and society. Likewise, the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and management aims to provide world-class education in market-oriented areas related to Food Processing Industries. National Institute of Financial Management is specialized in providing education in fields of Financial Management, Public policy and other governance issues that promote professional competence and practice. The objective of the Indian Institute of Petroleum and energy is to meet the skilled manpower for the growth of the petroleum sector. National Council for Hotel Management And Catering Technology aims to ensure growth and development of hospitality education

b) Academic and Industrial Interface- Now a day's government educational institutions focus on academic-industry collaboration to create the synergy. Academic and Industrial Interface helps in bridging the gaps between skills needed for the jobs and training imparted in academics (Basu and Sengupta, 2007; Bisaria, 2011; Nangia and Pramanik, 2011; Rowley,1998; Singh, 2011).Educational institutions emphasis on inculcating skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, decision making, innovation among students. Shri Vishwakarma Skill University set up by the government of Haryana aims at developing skill-based education in various emerging sectors. The education policies should ensure the continuously evolving the curriculum as per industry needs.

c) Technology Savvy- Implementation of Information and Communication Technology increases the level of accessibility, availability and skill improvement for the students (Chawla,2012; Dahiya et.al,2018; Pegu,2014; Singh, 2011). Information and Communication Technology transforms the educational scenario in government institutions (Pegu,2014). The National Programme for Technology Enhanced Learning programme has been launched which aims at providing technology-enabled teaching-learning processes.

d) Mentorship Practices- Government Institutions these days are promoting Mentorship Practices for grooming and molding the overall personality of the students (Bhayana and Sehrawat, 2016; Slimmer,2012). A Mentor-Mentee relationship is very prominent, where positive vibes provide advantages to both Mentor and Mentee. On one side such vibes benefit Mentees by increasing their intellectual and social skills and on the other side; it is an extremely gratifying experience for a Mentor through contributing to quality education. Mentorship practices help in developing ethical behavior among students (Bhayana and Sehrawat, 2016).

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e) Social Responsibilities- Government Institutions these days are involved in social responsibilities. To address the social issues and spread awareness to the farmers by implementing Village Adoption Programme by National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj & Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology.

2. Challenges

a) Research and Innovation-Plagiarism are turning out to be a big challenge for higher education. Plagiarism includes the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work without due acknowledgment and appropriate referencing. The government has also made some guidelines to combat cheating, plagiarism and academic dishonesty in education. Recently UGC made it mandatory for Ph.D. students to learn about research ethics in coursework to maintain Quality and Integrity in Academics.

b) Enrolment- The student enrolment rate is decreasing in government institutions. As per a report of the Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) by HRD Minister the goal is to Double the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and resolving geographically and socially skewed access to higher education institutions in India.

c) Political interference- Political Interference harms quality education in government institutions. The involvement of Bureaucrats will be discouraged into the Education sector. Bureaucracy in academics can hamper creativity, innovation, and academic excellence. Academic administration shall be highly non-hierarchical and highly decentralized.

Suggestions that can be incorporated in Education policy-

- The course curriculum shall be designed by concerned area faculty in collaboration with industry. Collaborate academia-industry to align the curriculum structure that substantially supports the collective needs of industry, academia, and society.
- The research fund allocation shall be highest, among developing nations for reaping fruits of demographic dividends.
- Bureaucracy in academics shall hamper creativity, innovation, and academic excellence
- Academic administration shall be highly non-hierarchical and highly decentralized.
- Instead of branding a university as a research or teaching institution, faculty should be given the option to work on teaching or research or outreach. That way faculty can perform in their area of expertise as well as institutions can hire according to their needs.
- Ad-hoc and Contractual Faculty concept should be discontinued. The government should take the necessary steps to fill the vacancies.

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- Faculty should be given liberty/relaxation/permission to start and work on their own entrepreneurial venture along with academic works to put-up it as an example before students in motivating and convincing students to become entrepreneurs
- Faculty should be encouraged to work as visiting faculty in other institutions
- Promote high-quality research publication to enhance knowledge-creation in all allied disciplines at school/college/university levels.
- An international collaboration of teaching, training, research and consultancy to facilitate a multitude of knowledge enhancement.
- Building academic infrastructural facilities in such a way to reach the interior part of the country.

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