

Challenges before higher education in 21st century

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Abstract : Education is a very good tool that benefits all of us throughout life. There is only way to make all dreams come true ,good education .In this competitive world, it is very important for everyone to get education. Proper education builds many paths to advance in the future .It strengthens us socially , mentally and intellectually by achieving our high level of knowledge , technical skills and higher rank in the job. Every child dreams to make something different in their life. There has been significant progress in the last five decades after independence. This paper will highlight challenges before higher education in 21st century.

Keywords : 21st Century , Challenges in Higher Education

Introduction:

The union and state both have the right to make laws on the subjects which are kept in the concurrent list of Indian constitution. Due to being in the concurrent there is no uniformity in both the centre and the state , in term of education related rules on some subjects , which culminates in many forms of controversy. The university Grants Commission has been established to bring uniformity in universities and to determine the standards. But our education system has not been developed fully. We are not able to lista single university in top 100 universities of the world. Various governments tried to boost the education system and implemented various education policies but they were not sufficientto put an example for the universe. UGC is continuously working and focusing on quality education in highereducation sector. Still we are facing lot of problems and challenges in our education system.

Three major tasks are to be done in higher education –teaching ,research and academic administration . It is not an easy task for any teacher to have equal rights on these three. There is a greater interest in teaching someone , then in somebody’s research and in some of the academic administrative responsibilities it will be able to play well . After the API system has been

implemented , research journal ,research seminars and books have flooded. Based on the number of these , it can be easily estimated that how much quality we can be in higher education. For quality restoration in research , we have to make the research compulsory and not optional. Only those who are really interested in research will go ahead in research.

Our university system is, in many parts, in a state of disrepair...In almost half the districts in the country, higher education enrollments are abysmally low, almost two-third of our universities and 90 per cent of our colleges are rated as below average on quality parameters... I am concerned that in many states university appointments, including that of vice-chancellors, have been politicised and have become subject to caste and communal considerations, there are complaints of favouritism and corruption. – Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2007

Some of the basic challenges in higher education system in India are discussed below:

- ❖ The main challenge of higher education is that there is no uniform education policy in all the states. Although education is kept under concurrent list and no courses on the states can be imposed by the centre . But our national song is one, the national symbol is one , is a national bird, why not one education system.
- ❖ In a whole ,the student – teacher ratio is so unbalanced in the whole country that thinking poses a terrible situation. there is a shortage of 15-20% teachers in IIT institutions like.
- ❖ The ratio of those who register for higher education is at least 11% in the world , whereas in America it is 83%. This is big challenge of high education in 21st century.
- ❖ Spending on Research is below 1% ,while at least 2% should be spent . The budget of defense and other ministries is prolonged , but education is ignored. The ministry of human resource development ,Government of India .In Britain it is also called 'Ministry of Education and skills' and 'Ministry of Education, Employment and Workplace relations' in Australia.
- ❖ In current scenario ,there are many challenges facing higher education , in which the main problem is how to provide teachers salary etc . Higher education is now on the path of market based education , in which society , student ,market will determine how much grading of the institute is and where the skills and knowledge –based education are available.
- ❖ In the current higher education , global education of international education has taken place , in which every student international level should now accept world class education in which our students go to the universities of the country to take good education ,while the

foreign students come to india with new education take education in related universities .said that now the system of finance is being reduced by the state. It is increasing the responsibility of the higher education institute that it will give education to the students through its resources and in return , take it from the students.

- ❖ quality of education is absent in higher education. There are very few teachers and their knowledge is very insufficient. The teachers are not having proper knowledge of subject even and resources to student community are very poor. 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.
- ❖ Poor infrastructure is another challenge to the higher education system of India .There are large number of colleges which are functioning on second or third floor of the building on ground or first floor there exists readymade hosieries or photocopy shops.
- ❖ Nowadays education is becoming privatized, this is also a big challenge.
- ❖ Mostly educational Institutions are owned by the political leaders, who are playing key role in governing bodies of the Universities. They are using the innocent students for their selfish means. Students organise campaigns, forget their own objectives and begin to develop their careers in politics.
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- ❖ 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 system which only can be influenced by increasing funding and providing better facilities to students. But we know there is always increase in the fund for the education system but never implemented in 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 need 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 that quality here itself? We have to stop this brain drainage so as avoid students to run away from country. Our governments trying for various

challenges faced but no one is doing well for that. Government came and goes but system 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 give a broader meaning to life in general and education in particular. I believe that 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.
- ❖ Most of the educational Institutions are owned by the political leaders, who are playing key role in governing bodies of the Universities. They are using the innocent students for their selfish means. Students organise campaigns, forget their own objectives and begin to develop their careers in politics.
- ❖ Faculty shortages and the inability of the state educational system 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 are lot of vacancies in higher education, these deserving candidates are then applying in other departments which is a biggest blow to the higher education system.
- ❖ there are very nominal scholars in our country whose writing is cited by famous western authors. 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 fellowships on time which directly or indirectly affects their research. Moreover, Indian Higher education institutions are poorly connected to research centers. So, this is another area of challenge to the higher education in India.

Suggestions Improving the System of Higher Education:

Suggestions for improving quality of higher education There are some suggestions for improving quality of higher education

- There should be a good infrastructure of colleges and universities which may attract the students.
- Industry and Academia Connection- Industry and Academia connect necessary to ensure curriculum and skills in line with requirements. Skill building is really very crucial to ensure employability of academia to understand and make sure good jobs (keeping in view knowledge + skills+ global professional skills = good jobs).

- Government must promote collaboration between Indian higher education institutes and top International institutes and also generates linkage between national research laboratories and research centers of top institutions for better quality and collaborative research.
- There is a need to focus on the graduate students by providing them such courses in which they can achieve excellence, gain deeper knowledge of subject so that they will get jobs after recruitment in the companies which would reduce unnecessary rush to the higher education.
- Innovative Practices- The new technologies offer vast opportunities for progress in all walks of life. It offers opportunities for economic growth for the cost. So that, students at lower economic levels can be given highly subsidised and fully subsidised education.
- Coming of Information Age- The world is entering into an Information Age and developments in communication, information and technology will open up new and cost-effective approaches for providing the reach of higher education to the youth as well as to those who need continuing education for meeting the demands of explosion of information, fast-changing nature of occupations, and lifelong education. Knowledge, which is at the heart of higher education, is a crucial resource in the development of political democracy, the struggle for social justice and progress towards individual enlightenment.
- To Provide Need Based Job-Oriented Courses- All round development of personality is the purpose of education. But the present day education is neither imparting true knowledge of life and nor improving the talent of a student by which one can achieve laurels in the field one is interested. So, combination of arts subjects and computer science and science and humanities or literature should be introduced so that such courses could be useful for the students to do jobs after recruitment in some companies which would reduce unnecessary rush to higher education. The programme must be focused on graduate studies and research and developing strategies and mechanisms for the rapid and efficient transfer of knowledge and for its application to specific national and local conditions and needs. Meritorious doctoral students should be recognized through teaching assistantships with stipends over and above the research fellowships. Finally, based on knowledge only vision of the future life and work can be had; based on this vision only a broad ambition can be fixed for oneself; and based on this ambition only one can lead interesting life doing satisfying job to do remarkable achievements in some field in the world

- International Cooperation- Universities in India have been a primary conduit for the advancement and transmission of knowledge through traditional functions such as research, innovation, teaching, human resource development, and continuing education. International cooperation is gaining importance as yet another function. With the increased development of transport and communication, the global village is witnessing a growing emphasis on international cooperation and action to find satisfactory solutions to problems that have global dimensions and higher education is one of them.
- Universities and colleges in both public private must be away from the political affiliations, Favouritism, money making process should be out of education system etc.
- Towards a New vision- India realizes, like other nations of the world, that humanity stands today at the head of a new age of a large synthesis of knowledge, and that the East and the West have to collaborate in bringing about concerted action for universal upliftment, and lasting peace and unity. In this new age, great cultural achievements of the past have to be recovere
- Higher educational institutes need to improve quality and reputation.
- Government must promote collaboration between Indian higher education institutes and top International institutes and also generates linkage between national research laboratories and research centers of top institutions for better quality and collaborative research.
- Cross Culture Programmes- After education, tour to all the places in India and world as far as possible with the cooperation of government is necessary so that one can understand about people, culture, arts, literature, religions, technological developments and progress of human society in the world.
- There should be a multidisciplinary approach in higher education so that students knowledge may not be restricted only upto his own subjects.
- The life of one will not be interesting but rather boring, monotonous and frustrating. This is mainly due to parental interference in the education of the children. Parental

guidance is necessary but it should not interfere in the creativity or individuality of the students. Also, in spite of the obsolete type of education system, some are achieving wonderful things in Sports, Music, Dance, Painting, Science and Technology in the world. This is only due to the encouragement of the parents and some dedicated teachers in the educational institutions. Higher education is necessary for one to achieve excellence in the line one is best. But one should be selected for higher education on the basis of merit only. Further, fees for education in general should not be high; especially, the fees for higher studies should be within the reach of every class of people in the nation.

- Privatization of Higher Education- In any nation education is the basic necessity for the socio-economic development of the individuals and the society. In reality only 20% of the population is educated in India. So, improved standard of education as first priority should be offered to the majority by the govt. authorities with sincere political will. Also, privatization of higher education is absolutely necessary in a vast country like India as government alone is helpless to do so.
- Quality depends on its all functions and activities: teaching and academic programs, research and scholarship, staffing, students, building, facilities, equipments, services to the community and the academic environment. It also requires that higher education should be characterized by its international dimensions: exchange of knowledge, interactive networking, mobility of teachers and students and international research projects, while taking into account the national cultural values and circumstances. The level of education and knowledge being imparted by many colleges...is not up to the mark. Instead of concentrating on quantity, these institutions should concentrate on quality. The approach of doctoral research in social sciences needs to be more analytical and comparative and be related to society, policy and economy. A study conducted on Social Science Research Capacity in South Asia (2002) showed that the share of the Indian universities in the special articles published in the Economic and Political Weekly was only about a 25 percent. This too was dominated by only three universities, namely Jawaharlal Nehru University, University of Mumbai & University of Delhi.
- Indian government is not giving priority to the development of Standard in education. India should aspire for the international standard in education. Many national universities like in the USA, UK, Australia, etc. allow studies in higher education for

foreign students in their countries and through correspondence courses as well. In the same way India Universities of world class education can also offer courses of studies to foreign students taking advantage of the globalization process. To achieve that goal it should adopt uniform international syllabus in its educational institutions.

- Finally, education should be for the flowering of personality but not for the suppression of creativity or natural skill. In the globalized world opportunities for the educated people are naturally ample in scope. As a result business process outsourcing (BPO) activities have increased competition in the world trade leading towards the production of quality goods and their easy availability everywhere in the world market. That is the way the world can be developed for peace, prosperity and progress by able and skilful men
- be seen in the context of extremely low fraction of Ph.Ds in India in relation to M.Sc./B.Tech., as compared to what it is in USA, UK, Germany, Japan etc. Meritorious doctoral students should be recognized through teaching assistantships with stipends over and above the research fellowships Identifying talented, meritorious students and encouraging them through recognition is very important to attract students into research and teaching.
- There is a need to implement innovative and transformational approach form primary to higher education level to make Indian educational system globally more relevant and competitive.
- To increase Quantity of Universities- We need more universities because we are more in number and present number of universities is too less. On 13th June, 2005 Government of India constituted a high level advisory body known as National Knowledge Commission (NKC) to advise the PM about the state of education in India and measures needed to reform this sector. It was headed by Sam Pitroda and submitted its report in November 2007. NKC has recommended setting up of 1500 universities by 2015 so that gross enrollment ratio increases to 15 percent. It has also called for establishing an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE) to monitor the quality of overall higher education in India.
- Examination Reforms- Examination reforms, gradually shifting from the terminal, annual and semester examinations to regular and continuous assessment of student's performance in learning should be implemented
- High-tech Libraries- Our university libraries have a very good collection of books, but they are all in mess. A library must be online and conducive for serious study. Indian

universities should concentrate more on providing quality education which is comparable to that of international standards.

Conclusion

After independence, there has been tremendous increase in institutions of higher learning in all disciplines. But with the quantitative growth has it been able to attend to the core issue of quality. India is today one of the fastest developing countries of the world with the annual growth rate going above 9%. In order to sustain that rate of growth, there is need to increase the number of institutes and also the quality of higher education in India. To reach and achieve the future requirements there is an urgent need to relook at the Financial Resources, Access and Equity, Quality Standards, Relevance and at the end the Responsiveness. To attain and sustain national, regional or international quality, certain components are particularly relevant, notably careful selection of staff and continuous staff development, in particular through the promotion of appropriate programs for academic development, including teaching/learning methodology and mobility between countries, between higher education institutions and the world of work, as well as student mobility within and between countries. Internal self-evaluation and external review must be conducted openly by independent specialists, if possible with international experts.

Conclusion

At last we can say that Higher education is very importantHigher education is of vital importance for the country, as it is a powerful tool to build knowledge-based society of the 21st Century. It is widely recognized that the existing data base on higher education is inadequate, out-of-date. Higher education can play an instrumental role in the achievement of these outcomes through the creation of knowledge networks, research and innovation centers, corporate-backed institutions, and support for faculty development. Society as a whole must support education at all levels, including higher education, given its role in promoting sustainable economic, social and cultural development. UPA-II wanted to change the face of higher education through a slew of legislations but all fell through in Parliament. The BJP manifesto has promised a revamp of regulator UGC, which BJP-led government should be able to implement them. research and extension activities so as to balance both the need and the demand. Creative solutions-like online courses and foreign university partnerships put India in a position to grow its higher education sector dramatically in the coming years In conclusion, it may be said, the Higher Education System in India while critical for the development of the economy is afflicted with some serious concerns. It is a long way from a transformational

change which is envisaged by various committees. Finally, this is the time to consider steps to make India into the world's major hub for higher education in the 21st century.

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