**Higher Education System in India : an analysis on present and future with reference to teachers.**

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**ABSTRACT**

Education is considered as an important facet of development for human and society. Education, training, and research are integral and interrelated parts each other. They are responsible and dedicated for the better and healthy knowledge cultivation. Educational Institutions are responsible for dedication of knowledge activities such as collection, selection, organization, processing, management, and dissemination of knowledge and similar activities. India as a developing country which grows faster to reach a status of developed nation. Education is viewed as a vital source and facet. Development of a country as a whole many a ways depends on the subjects and fields which are applied in nature. Information Technology and computing related subjects are playing a great part for the complete and modern development of society. Even education systems have changed with the integration and application of Information Technology. The growths of Higher Educational Institutions are rapid in recent years. The increasing numbers of institutions, universities, especially self-financed educational institutions themselves shows this. There are many merits and demerits of such type of institutions. The present paper is a review about higher education system in India. The teachers are the most important element in any educational program. Their role in implementing advanced educational policies must be recount and rewarded.

Keywords: Education, Higher Education, Skills, India, Universities, Development

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Higher education means different things to different people. In terms of level, Higher education means to gain higher educational qualification by the teaching-learning process in the higher educational institutes such as colleges and universities. Higher education give students a wider perspective of the world around by imparting knowledge, developing the student’s ability and providing new insights. Higher education becomes input to the growth and development of industry through educated and skilled generations. Higher education is also seen as an opportunity to participate in the development process of the individuals.

Higher education covers all post-secondary education, training and research guidance at educational institutions such as universities that are authorised as institutions of higher education by state authorities and regulatory bodies. It includes all the activities of such higher education institutions - not only those that take place within ordinary universities and graduate schools, but shorter term education and training courses like polytechnics, junior colleges, and various forms of technical specialty schools also. Correspondence courses that make use of information technology are also included. The teachers are the important part of any such education program who make all the educational goals to be attained. The future of the nation vested in the hands of teachers.

1. **SCENARIO OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA**

Gap between the capacity and demand for higher education in India is high. India is currently having a low rate of enrolment compared to China and Brazil. The quality of research work is low in India, though there is no shortage of research related funding. However, budget for the Research is underutilised due to the insufficient good quality research work. The number of Research papers published in India has increased continuously for the past few decades but reflected in low citation impact if compared with other countries like Germany, United States, France and China. It is also observed that Indian higher education is facing with the problem of poor quality of curriculum. In most of the higher educational institutes curriculum is out-dated and irrelevant. There is shortage of Faculty and High Student-Faculty Ratio also. In most of the state and central universities more than 30% of faculty positions are lying vacant. Apart from the highly recognized higher educational institutes in India most of the colleges and universities lack in the basic and high-end research facilities. Many institutes are running without proper infrastructure and basic facilities like library, hostels, transport, sports facility etc. which is desirable to rank the quality institution. Presently there is a very less collaboration of higher educational institutes with industries. Low employability of graduates is one of the major problems in India. Only a small proportion of Indian graduates are considered employable. Placement outcome also drop significantly as we move away from the top institutes. All these situations show that the role of quality teachers is of paramount importance.

1. **CHALLENGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA**

It is our 75th year of independence still our education system has not been developed fully. Various governments changed during these past 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. The New Education Policy 2020 is a positive move in this direction. UGC is continuously working and focusing on quality education in higher education sector. Still we are facing lot of problems and challenges in our education system. Some of the basic challenges in higher education system in India are discussed below:

**Low rate of student Enrolment:** The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of India in higher education is quite low as compared to the developed as well as, other developing countries. The students do not prefer master degrees in India and there is a steady flow of students, overseas.

 **Lack of Equity:** There is no equity in GER among different sects of the society. According to previous studies the GER in higher education in India among male and female varies to a greater extent. There are regional variations too some states have high GER while as some is quite behind the national GER which reflect a significant imbalances within the higher education system.

 **Inferior Quality of Institutions:** Quality in higher education is a multi-dimensional, multilevel, and a dynamic concept. Ensuring quality in higher education is amongst the foremost challenges being faced in India today. However, Government is continuously focusing on the quality education. Still Large number of colleges and universities in India are unable to meet the minimum requirements laid down by the UGC and our universities are not in a position to mark its place among the top universities of the world.

 **Infrastructural Backwardness**: Poor infrastructure is another challenge to the higher education system of India particularly the institutes run by government suffer from poor physical facilities and infrastructure. There are large number of colleges which are functioning on rental buildings and commercial complexes.

 **Political interventions**: Most of the educational Institutions are controlled by the political affiliations. The governing bodies of the Universities are filled with politicians, and not academicians.

**Talent shortage:** Faculty shortages and the inability of the state educational system to attract and maintain well qualified teachers have been posing challenges to quality education for many years. Large numbers of NET / PhD candidates are unemployed even though there is lot of vacancies in higher education. Deserving candidates are not applying in government departments which is a biggest blow to the higher education system.

 **Mediocre ratings:** As per the data provided by the NAAC only a minority percent of the total higher education institutions in the country are accredited. Among those accredited, only about one third of the universities and colleges are of 'A' level or higher.

 **Lack of applied** **Research and Innovation:** 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 advice 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.

 **Shift of focus from academics to administration:** Management of the Indian education faces challenges of overcentralisation, bureaucratic structures and lack of accountability, transparency, and professionalism. As a result of increase in number of affiliated colleges and students, the burden of administrative functions of universities has significantly increased and the core focus on academics and research is diluted.

1. **SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

There is a need to implement innovative and transformational approach to higher education level to make Indian educational system more relevant and competitive in a global perspective. For developing sophisticated curriculum, organizing expert lectures, internships, live projects, career counseling and placements, industrial cooperation must be ensued. There is a high need for improving quality and reputation of higher educational institutes, establishment of credibility through student exchange, faculty exchange programs, and other collaborations with high- quality national and international higher educational institutes. Role of teachers need to be redesigned and rescheduled to implement the new curriculum.

Some of the major areas of improvement in higher education system in India are ;

**1. Move Towards a Learning Society-** As part of nation’s movement towards a progressive and learning society, higher education system also plays a vital role. Authorities must device plan to make this effort more effective. Also provide students such courses in which they can achieve excellence, gain deeper knowledge of subject so that they will get more skills and employability, through these efforts, value system also improved.

**2. Ensure Industry and Academic Collaborations -** Industry and Academic collaboration is necessary to ensure curriculum and skills in line with requirements. Skill building is crucial to ensure employability of students. These talents can be applied in industries. Industry- academic tie ups helps in shaping and preparing the students towards career.

**3. Provide Incentives to Teachers and Researchers-** Students and industryare expecting sophisticated courses to be offered so that they get the latest and best in education and they are also industry ready and employable. Vocational and Diploma courses need to be made more advanced to facilitate students more efficient. Incentives should be provided to teachers and researchers to make these professions more attractive and to make younger generation more prepared.

**4. Introduce Innovative Practices-** The new technologies and innovations offer vast opportunities towards progress in all walks of life. It offers opportunities for economic growth, improved health, better service delivery, improved learning and socio-cultural advancements also. Efforts are required to improve the country’s innovative capacity, the efforts should be given to manage the existing strengths in light of new understanding of the research and innovation for growth.

 **5. Mobilise resources**- Authority must ensure public funding to gear up the higher education sector. Effective measures need to be adopted to mobilize resources for higher education. There is also a need to relate the fee structure to the student’s capacity to pay for the cost. So that, students at lower economic levels can also be included in higher education initiatives.

**6. Introduction of Information Age-** The world is entering into the information age and developments in communication, information and technology opened new and cost-effective approaches. It provides 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.

**7. Emphasis on Student-centered Education and Dynamic Methods-** Methods of higher education must be appropriate to the needs of learning. Student-centered education and employment of dynamic methods of education require to form new attitudes and new skills on teachers also. Methods of teaching through lectures have to be supplement to the methods that will lay stress on self-study, personal consultation between teachers and students, and dynamic sessions of seminars and workshops.

**8. Design Need Based Job-Oriented Courses-** 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. So, combination of different vocational courses also be included along with other higher degrees, 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 also mechanisms for the rapid and efficient transfer of knowledge and for its application to specific conditions and needs.

**9. International Cooperation-** Cooperation and collaboration with international universities and bodies and industry players also helpful in advancing higher education system in India. This will give new direction view to students and teachers. Hence they become more trained and adaptive.

1. **CONCLUSION**

 Higher education system in India currently in a transformation stage. It requires to review and redesign the current practices and policies in higher education system. A change which encompasses expansion, excellence and inclusion must be planned and implemented. The higher education system needs a massive expansion of opportunities, to universities nationwide, that would enable India to attain a considerable gross enrolment ratio.  Regulation system for higher education must be changed. The present regulatory system in higher education is flawed in some important respects. The system, as a whole, is over-regulated but under-governed. Public spending must be increased and sources of financing must be diversified. For ensuring excellence,  the system of affiliated colleges for undergraduate education, needs to be reformed. Education is the fundamental mechanism for social inclusion through the creation of more opportunities.

The role of teachers in all these endeavors is high and remarkable. All the change and development efforts can be implemented through teachers only.

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