

## **A STUDY ON ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA**

**JYOTI ARORA**

**PRINCIPAL MOUNT ABU PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**ROHINI, DELHI 110085**

**Abstract:** Higher education is undoubtedly a potential tool for utilizing the young talents and thereby transforming the country. Higher education is a significant benefactor to sustainable livelihoods and economic development of the nation. Higher education also plays a crucial and equally important role in improving human well-being and development. Higher education must be designed to provide services as a hub for developing ideas and innovations that enlighten every human being and help in stimulating the country to ahead socially, culturally, artistically, scientifically, technologically, and economically. In the changed scenario of higher education, access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability are some of the main challenges that have to overcome for its smooth functioning.

**Keywords-** Higher Education, Accessibility, Equity, Entrepreneurship, Skill-oriented.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Since its initialization in the 1850s to the present decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the higher education system in India has been following an isomorphic pattern of growth. It is only through Higher Education that the development of a country is possible and so it is achieving paramount importance. Both the Central and the State Government are taking various steps for strengthening the higher education system of the country. Higher Education in India traces its root back to the mid -19<sup>th</sup> century (i.e. during the British regime) with the establishment of three public universities in the 'presidency 'headquarter' cities of Madras (Chennai), Calcutta (Kolkata), Bombay (Mumbai). Modelled on the University of London, these universities were 'largely affiliating an examining bodies with very little intellectual life of their own' . The great extent of modern life is the outcome of the research. It is only can possible by higher education. The process of education has been changed tremendously. Now a day it is considered to be a challenging job and it is derived from social structures, cultures, values and ideas of people in the globalised world. India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world. Globalization has brought about several changes in any sphere of human life and the process of teaching-learning. The first world conference on Higher Education was held in Paris in October 1998, under the auspices of UNESCO. About 180 countries participated in the conference through their representatives. Since the last 50 years, there has been a very significant development in Higher Education in India. Till 2011 India had 42 central universities, 275 state universities, 130 deemed universities, 90 private universities, 5 institutions established and functioning under the State Act, and 33 Institutes of National

Importance. Other institutions include 33,000 colleges as Government Degree Colleges and Private Degree Colleges, including 1800 exclusive women's colleges, functioning under these universities and institutions as reported by the UGC in 2012. At present, India has the world's third-largest higher education system after the United States and China. Unlike, China, however, India has the advantage of English being the primary language of higher education and research. India educates approximately 27% of its youth in higher education in the year 2018-19. Some institutions of India, such as the IITs have been globally acclaimed for their standard of education. At present, the world-class institutions in India are mainly limited. But, India is now considered to be one of the most promising economies in the world. Radhakrishna quotes white head "a progressive society depends on its inclusion of three groups- scholar, discoverers and inventors". The universities or higher education are the chief agencies for producing these types of individuals who use progressive activities as effective instruments.

**Objective -**

The primary objective of writing this paper is to explore the various issues and challenges that prevail in the sector of higher education.

**Methodology :**

The paper is purely developed in a theoretical framework. Therefore only secondary sources of data have been consulted and only a discussion method is employed.

**Discussion :**

The discussion of the paper has been forwarded with the help of the following key issues ---

-

**ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION:**

The issues of higher education are related to all levels of education i.e. from primary to university stage. Because unless there is good education at a lower level, higher education at the college or universities level cannot become successful. The quality of higher education is also depending on the lower level. Therefore, we can point out any issues or problems of higher education in the following way.

- The quality of education delivered in the most institution is very poor, while India has some institution of global repute delivering quality education. Such Indian institute of management and an Indian institute of technology, It not enough for them
- Currently higher education has to face the challenges brought by the New Education Policy 2020 for its successful implementation. Access, Equity, Quality, Accountability and Affordability are the five pillars that has been laid emphasis by the policy for the radical changes in the sector of higher education.

- One of the core issues of higher education is to expand the Gross Enrollment Ratio of Higher education which is popularly known as GER. New Education Policy 2020 has also targeted to accomplish the mission of 50% by the end of 2035.
- Expansion of higher educational institution to fulfil rising demands of higher education.
- Lack of proper attention towards moral education.
- Education is now converted into a market-oriented process where knowledge must have its productivity.
- An increasing number of students going abroad for higher education is a drain on foreign exchange resources. Lack of attractiveness in teaching as a profession there is a lack of educated educators teaching is not attractive it is the last choice of in terms of carrier.
- Another main issue regarding higher education is to impart quality education. Marks can not merely be a yardstick of measuring the quality of learners. It is beyond marks and grades.
- Most of the educational institutions especially in the state of Maharashtra and states of south India are down by politician. In their education systems are highly regulated by the government has been set up to benefit politician.
- In several universities many students yet their degree but after taking a degree they have to face unemployment because the scope of job opportunity does not increase in consideration of the students who are coming out from the universities with a degree. The standards of education in universities have degenerated for several reasons such as in lack of proper guidance of students and course the standard education in degeneration day today. This is not modernized to suit the requirements of the present time and not job oriented in the modern-day. Particularly in the rural area not getting adequate facilities for type's education. Where they should get almost the colleges are overcrowding. There is no space or no proper rooms to accommodate all the students. There are no adequate teaching aids and equipment in most education institutions especially in remote area school or college.
- There is no provision for giving proper guidance and counselling to the students. Hence, the students select their carrier either's according to their own choice or with the advice of some inexperienced persons. Many students select subjects which are either against their interest and tendencies or which they are not capable of studying. At the universities level – K.R.S Lyenger has remarks –in his book “A new deal for our universities”- “Ours standards whether in scholarships teaching never very high or exiting are now fast reaching to the bottom.”
- At the higher education level, new skill and knowledge are required to be up to date. In comparison to the west, the contribution of our universities like science, art or literature is very little. Research facilities are not available at the college level because of which college teacher do less research work. Another issue of higher

education is the unplanned scope of admission at the universities and college level. Those unplanned admissions are creating campus problems such as student's unrest. Especially after introducing the semester system of different universities of Delhi has created problems of affiliating colleges due to lack of sufficient teacher.

- In Indian universities, the students do not have some facilities which are provided in other countries of the world. Students have to face a shortage of books, the libraries are not possessed even playground. Burdened with too much work. Their working conditions are such that they are not able to perform their teaching work properly.
- Transformation of the most brilliant brains from our country to the other developed countries.
- A serious problem the unsuitability of medium instructions.

### **CHALLENGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION:**

The ministry of human resource development, the government of India set up a committee of the CABE (central Advisory Board of education) wide notification No. 2-16/2004, PN-1 dated 8 September 2004 on the autonomy of higher education. The huge demand-supply gap- not just in terms of several seats available but more so in terms of seat available in institutions that offer quality education-9500 seat in the National Institute of Technology (NIT) invited more than two lakh application.

Transformation from technology to high-technology, high-touch existence foreshadowed the role that technology would come to play in the delivery of education and the way people learn and work. Studies focus on transformation in a variety of ways they call upon higher education to raise their standards to better meet the needs of society.

As we enter the information age, we face the very real challenge of redirecting the course of education. So that young people will be ready to wrestle with the demand of the new global economy, the new realities facing government and the new challenges of the multicultural world. Civil society is the wellspring of our spirit as a people preparing the next generation for a lifelong commitment to civil society in one of the most important challenges facing educators and communities.

Technology has because the challenges to become more urgent. After all, A number of gaps of engineers and scientist are growing this group has historically been an indicator of a country's primary resources for innovation. According to the National Science Foundation, the average age of half of the American scientist is over and the age is rising. At the same time, China and India are rapidly expanding their numbers with the same skill. The universities and college in India try to focus equally on academic and job oriented courses while planning for new programmed to make higher education relevant for the world of work they effort create opportunities for students to pursue utility-oriented certificate and diploma program along with their formal degree programs. International education should be encouraged in all higher education institutions to facilitate self-employment rather than wage employment in the country. Because the country is faced with new challenges which arise out the enormous increase in population the needs of which are being met adequately by the education development. Internalization of higher education, national traditional and

Socio-economic circumstances continue to play an important role in shaping academic life and have a major impact on the attractiveness of job in the profession. Yet today's global trends, with their emphasis on knowledge production and information flow, play towards the internalization of higher education. The international mobility of students has grown; new technologies connect scholarly communities around the world, and English has become the new lingua Franca of the international community. A professionalization of higher education management is regarded as necessary to enable higher education to respond effectively to a rapidly changing external environment. Expectations of from various stakeholders – Students, Industry, Educational Institutions, Parents, Government Need to double capacity – not just in terms of seat count but “quality” seat count Remove the “Not for profit” requirement to facilitate the investment from the private sector Industry and Academia connect necessary to ensure curriculum and skills in line with requirements.

Skill building is very crucial to ensure employability – Academia to understand and make sure – knowledge + skills+ global professional skills = good jobs

Industry and students are expecting specialized courses to be offered so that they get the latest and best in education and they are also industry ready and employable.

Too much power vested in single institutions that regulate e.g. AICTE – e.g. Policy, licensing, funding, curriculum etc. Need to disintegrate to perform specific key functions.

Some industry-academic connection programs not working out as expected – e.g. Summer training for MBA students – most of them given dummy projects and are avoided while on board. The industry needs to get involved to support institutions.

Vocational and Diploma courses need to be made more attractive to facilitate specialized programs being offered to students.

The industrial sectors should recognize that skill qualified manpower required by the industrial sectors can be produced by universities only if they alter well endowed with finance.

The increasing expectation of relevance in higher education teaching-learning training and research, internalization the changing role of graduate training work and the interface between management and the academic profession. Each college should create an early identification program with surrounding schools, focusing first on junior high school students. The emphasis of such a program should include both counselling and improved preparation. The central mandate that community college must continue to offer all students an open door, and reaffirm to minority students the promise of empowerment through education.

### **Remedies to Overcome the Challenges of Higher Education:**

Based on the above discussion, the following suggestions can be forwarded to overcome the various challenges faced by the higher education of India---

1. The standard of education should be improved. Teacher, students and administration should be carefully fulfilling their responsibilities.

2. The syllabus should be job oriented and fulfil the needs and demands of the present situation and can thus help the degree holders.
3. Higher education must encourage to conduct research-oriented activities by the teachers as well as the students to derive some innovative ideas in the academic arena.
4. Entrepreneur skills must be developed amongst the students to foster employability.
5. Govt has to pay attention to establish more educational institutes for higher education especially in rural areas for the inclusive growth and development of higher education.
6. Diversification of curriculum to produce skilled labour in different fields as per the demand of the global.
7. There must be the provision of guidance and counselling cell in every higher educational institute to show them the right track to proceed.
8. Professionalism among the teachers must be developed to keep pace with the changing times.
9. Information and Communication Technology must be adopted in higher classes to make the learning more enjoyable and fruitful.
10. The educational administrator of higher education must be efficient enough to build up a nice academic culture in their institutions.
11. Inter-cultural communication between the countries must be strengthened for living harmoniously as a citizen of globalised world.
12. Gender-disparity in the sector of higher education reduced through some innovative approaches and strategies.
13. Teachers should be accountable or answerable towards themselves, students and the society at large.
14. Skill oriented courses should be launched by the concerned authority for transforming India a skilled country in true sense.
15. Govt must take some bold steps against mushrooming of lower quality and profit oriented private institutions.

**INNOVATIVE APPROACH IN HIGHER EDUCATION:**

The Educational reform of higher education is one of the integral parts of the reforming process. Following are main approaches—

- 1 Higher Educational Planning and administration shall be based on social economic and geographical areas.
- 2 . Common core syllabuses, at least 60% of total items should be covered and the other 40% should be prepared with local needs.
3. Effective and fruitful aptitude for teaching should be encouraged.
4. Quality Improvement program and introduction of technological contents.
5. Free education for the poorer and government investment should be introduced and it should be considered as a public good.

**CONCLUSION**

Higher education is the most important stage of education for building up a nation. It provides that vital links with national, social and carrier guidance on the other. So the need for greater flexibility in the pattern of teaching and learning is also to be placed on quality assurance to ensure the enhancement of the quality of both teaching and learning. Thus the ground rules were set out for the model of mass higher education. Some efficiency gain and hence some saving might be achieved by squeezing more teaching into the working day and by extending the academic year. The traditional pattern of education provision would not enable higher education institutions to meet the expansion of student.

**REFERENCES OR FOOTNOTES:**

Agarwal, J.C –“Landmark in the history of modern Indian education.(sixth edition) Vikash publishing house Pvt.Ltd.

Deshpande, H.V. (2019): Higher Education in India New Perceptions and Perspectives, published by Notion press pp 213-214.

Dr. Sharma, R.N- “History and problems of education in India”, Surajit publication, 7-k Kolhapur, Delhi.

Mukharji, S.N “Education in India today and tomorrow, Vinod pustak mondir Agra-2

Rao, R.K – Education in India, Kalpaj publication, New Delhi

Sarma, Mukul. Kumar – principles of education, (Philosophical & Sociological foundation of education) Banalata Dibrugarh.

Sharma, R.A – Educational; system & problems of the world. R Hall book depot near Govt. Inter college Meerut (UP)

University News- a weekly journal of higher education, Vol.50, No.33 August 13-19, 2012

[www.mhrd.ac.in](http://www.mhrd.ac.in)