

# ANALYSIS OF EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF EDUCATION IN INDIA

by

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## ABSTRACT

One of the key elements contributing to a nation's growth is education. It should be adjusted to the demands of the moment and the dynamic nature of the global environment. It offers a chance to consider seriously the moral, spiritual, moral, and social problems that mankind is now confronting. India needs more intelligent and productive individuals to advance our economy. Nearby, there are several Indians who are well-known for their qualities and skills. India must improve the quality of education overall and higher education with research and development in particular if it is to become a centre for education or a profitable participant in the global economy. The overall performance of India's higher education system is the primary topic of this essay.

We look for steps the administration has done to improve the quality of the educational system. The purpose of this essay is to identify new problems and obstacles in Indian higher education. The study concludes that there is a need for policies and solutions that integrate the expectations of businesses and youth with those of many stakeholders, including students, industry, educational institutions, parents, and the government.

## INTRODUCTION

For a growing nation like India, higher education is crucial and promotes furthering human growth. Since India's independence, higher education has grown astronomically. India has generated highly sought-after professionals in the fields of science, engineering, technology, medicine, education, and management. Because of the considerable contribution of personnel and instruments supplied by higher education, especially technical education, it is now one of the top ten countries in terms of our industrial and technology capability. India has already stepped into the age of the explosion of information. Its success in the nuclear and space fields has demonstrated its enormous potential. Spacecraft, satellites, the internet, and other scientific offshoots will usher in a new era in a few decades.

People have the chance to think on the important social, cultural, moral, economic, and spiritual concerns that mankind is currently grappling with thanks to higher education. Specialized information and competent individuals are made available by higher education for national development. India will have the greatest population of youth in the world in the next decades. Although there is not a strong association between individuals and higher

education. If potential for employment is realized, the growing young population may be a wonderful benefit. On the other hand, if we don't offer work and education, the Indian economy would enter a downward spiral. The key to attaining sustainability is education. The Education Commission 1964–1966 stated that a country's population density is molded in its classrooms when describing the importance of education in social and economic development. Assuming that the externalities produced by human capital are the root of a self-sustaining economic process, education builds human capital, which is at the center of economic advancement.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION SCENARIO IN INDIA**

Higher education has expanded significantly since 1951. Between 1951 and 2014, the number of colleges and universities increased from 28 to 677 and from 578 to 3800, respectively. As a result, both the number of instructors and pupils has greatly expanded. The fact that student enrollment has increased over time more than teacher enrollment may be attributable to the government's significant investment in elementary and secondary education at the school level. Rise in enrolments and institutions at school level, there is mushrooming growth in higher education institutions At the end of 2014 there were 677 Universities and 38000 colleges in India. But still we need more than 1500 universities to cater the demand.

Our educational system is advancing in terms of enrollment as well as the number of institutions and universities. The majority of these institutions have connected colleges where authorized and taught undergraduate courses are offered. However, if we contrast this improved statistic with the rising population, we must question if it is still improving. Student enrollment in higher education has increased for both males and girls. The study examines the fact that the enrollment ratio for women is lower than for males, as evidenced by data from 2010–2011. The data clearly demonstrates that there is a 19% enrollment difference in research, followed by a 17% difference in undergraduate enrollment and a 13% difference in graduate enrollment.

### **EMERGING ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

For any nation, and India in particular, the role of higher education in the developing knowledge economy is highly important and diverse. The higher education system in India is struggling with a number of fundamental issues. Higher education financing, a focus on theories rather than practical knowledge, traditional teaching techniques, privatization, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, a quota system, and a lower level of teaching quality are a few of these.

#### **1. LOWER LEVEL OF TEACHING QUALITY:**

Issues with quality plague many of our educational system's institutions and colleges. Numerous problems, such as a shortage of qualified teachers, subpar instruction, outmoded and restrictive curriculum and pedagogy, a lack of accountability and quality control, and the separation of research and teaching, generate concerns about the Indian educational system.

## 2. FINANCING OF HIGHER EDUCATION:

The issue of financial limitations relating to higher education before the government is one of the most crucial things that must be taken into consideration. One of the criteria used to assess the quality of education across the board for all nations is the government's spending on education generally and higher education in particular. 20–30% of the state government's revenue budget is already allocated to education. It is unable to increase its spending. Higher education in India has gotten less funding from the government than previous levels. It is not practical for India to undertake significant state expenditures in R&D that have generated research-driven institutions in the West like MIT, University of California, Berkeley in the US, or University of California, Berkeley in the UK. Indian education system is more focused on theoretical knowledge rather than practical knowledge. In many jobs there is also a minimum requirement of percentage which is high.

## 3. TRADITIONAL METHODS OF TEACHING:

Professors continue to use outdated instructional techniques like boards and markers. They dislike using audiovisual tools in the classroom. Additionally, they are out of touch with current knowledge and desires of the international business community.

## 4. PRIVATIZATION:

Privatization of higher education appears to be a new, positive trend in the current environment, and it is crucial to retain originality, adaptability, and quality. It is necessary given the economic consequences of globalization and liberalism. Institutions both governmental and private run concurrently in India. In India, private universities provide 50% of all higher education, much of it at a high cost and without government funding. But things are not as straightforward as they seem. Private providers are highly motivated to "minimize expenses" by lowering the standard of instruction offered at their institutions in order to maximize profit. Last but not least, one of the significant challenges for the higher education sector's future viability is the quality of the teaching personnel. Prior to this, they had a commitment to their profession, their topics, and their pupils. High incomes are available now, but commitment levels are lower. Therefore, it is imperative that the higher education system be liberated from pointless restrictions and political meddling.

## 5. INADEQUATE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

Many of the institutions in India lack the necessary infrastructure and resources to effectively educate students. Even many private institutions offer courses outside of traditional classroom settings. Many pupils are still unable to use the Internet and Wi-Fi facilities.

## 6. QUOTA SYSTEM:

Introducing a quota and reservation system for various categories in schooling reduced its quality. Even deserving applicants from general categories are passed over, and due to quotas, we are forced to choose someone from a restricted group even though he is unfit.

## EMERGING CHALLENGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Since the student body may contribute to creating a positive academic environment in institutions of higher learning, India has the second-largest higher education system in the world, meeting the educational needs of millions of students from various social groups. Without a doubt, India is now dealing with a lot of issues related to poverty, unemployment, and the loss of moral and spiritual values. But during the past few decades, India's higher education system has seen widespread issues and difficulties.

India's future is being fashioned in her classrooms, as the Education, Commission, 1964–1966 noted correctly. In truth, classrooms are where the nation's future citizens are raised, prepared, educated, and inspired to take on new tasks and adapt to changing circumstances.

"Indian higher education has expanded significantly during the past 60 years, despite the numerous plans and proposals made to direct it. There has been much change in Indian higher education, much of this change has been negative, deteriorating standards for much of the system, student political activism, the like, and there is little doubt that these characterizations are correct. At the same time, expansion has been the hallmark of higher education and systemic reforms have largely failed. (Sharda Mishra, "UGC & Higher Education System in India") The Indian higher education system, which is the second biggest in the world, meets the educational demands of millions of students from all walks of life since it is the student body that can contribute to creating a positive academic environment at higher education institutions. Without a doubt, India is now dealing with a lot of issues related to poverty, unemployment, and the loss of moral and spiritual values. However, throughout the previous several decades, there have been widespread issues and concerns in India's higher education system that are mentioned below.

### 1. Our heterogeneous education system:

Geographically speaking, the rural-urban, rich-poor setup has been a significant difficulty for educational institutions. Different colleges, universities, and technical institutes have delivered education of varying forms and caliber. While a few of them are actually providing high-quality instruction, the most are working in the worst conditions. We appreciate UGC sharing the list of these phony universities and institutions that engage in academic fraud.

### 2. INTERFERENCE OF POLITICAL FACTORS:

Most educational institutions, both aided and unaided, are controlled by powerful political figures who currently hold important positions in university governing boards. They have created their own youth cells and support political student organizations. They take advantage of the kids' enthusiasm for political gain. The students start to build their political careers while losing sight of their personal goals.

### 3. ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES:

Is this one of the most problematic developments that the communities have been subjected to through the current higher education system? Many of the students, who make up the majority of the student body, are unable to support themselves with the barest needs of existence. Economic hardships have gotten worse as a result of rising prices, spending practices on luxury, rising population, food shortages, corruption, selfishness, etc. Students

who work part-time jobs to pay for their education should split their concentration between a job and their college or university studies. The majority of today's students, almost 75% of them, are having financial difficulties. Earn while you learn programs fall short in helping students overcome financial obstacles.

#### **4. LACK OF MORAL VALUES:**

Our traditional morals and values are under grave danger as a result of the industrialization that followed the rapid advancement of science and technology. The unhappiness and uprising of the younger generation are the results of a failing value system.

#### **SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

There are some suggestions and Expectations from Government, Industry, Educational Institutions, Parents and Students for improving quality of higher education.

##### **1. Student-Centred Education and Dynamic Methods-**

Higher education delivery methods must also fit the demands of learning to learn, learn to do, learn to be, and learn to become. Teachers will need new attitudes and new skills if they want to implement dynamic educational techniques and provide student-centered instruction. Lecture-based teaching strategies will need to make way for strategies that emphasize independent study, one-on-one conversations between professors and students, and engaging seminars and workshops. It will be necessary to use distant learning techniques on a large scale.

##### **2. Examination Reforms-**

It is necessary to undertake examination changes that progressively replace the terminal, yearly, and semester exams with regular and continual evaluations of students' learning progress.

##### **3. International Cooperation-**

Through conventional activities including research, innovation, teaching, human resource development, and continuing education, universities in India have been a major conduit for the dissemination and progress of knowledge. Another role that is becoming more crucial is international collaboration. The global village is observing an increasing emphasis on international collaboration and action to find appropriate answers to challenges that have global dimensions, higher education being one of them. This is due to the greater development of transportation and communication.

##### **4. To increase Quantity of Universities-**

Due to our increased population and the fact that there are now too few universities, we need more. The National Knowledge Commission (NKC), a high-level advisory body established by the Indian government on June 13, 2005, was tasked with advising the prime minister on the status of education in India and the reforms that should be made to this industry. It was led by Sam Pitroda, and in November 2007 it turned in a report. The NKC has suggested that 1500 institutions be established by 2015 in order to raise the gross enrollment percentage to 15%. In order to oversee the general quality of higher education in India, it has also recommended for the creation of an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE).

## 5. Cross Culture Programmes-

Following schooling, traveling to as many locations in India and throughout the globe as possible with the assistance of the government is essential to gain knowledge about people, cultures, arts, literature, religions, technical advancements, and the advancement of human civilization worldwide.

## 6. Action Plan for Improving Quality-

External specialists must undertake an academic and administrative audit once every three years at colleges to guarantee excellence in all areas of academic activities. The self-financing colleges must submit an application for accreditation and meet the criteria. Universities and colleges should recognize the need of providing high-quality education and present an action plan for doing so.

## 7. World Class Education-

The creation of Standards in education is not given importance by the Indian government. India must strive to meet the world's educational standards. Numerous national institutions, such as those in the USA, UK, Australia, etc., permit international students to pursue higher education both in-person and online. Similarly, world-class universities in India may provide study programs to international students by leveraging the trend of globalization. Its educational institutions must embrace a standard, worldwide curriculum in order to reach this aim.

## 8. Personality Development-

Finally, education must foster personality development rather than stifle innate talent or inventiveness. Opportunities for educated persons are inherently abundant in the globalized world. Business process outsourcing (BPO) initiatives have expanded trade rivalry as a result, resulting in the manufacture of high-quality items and their simple availability on the global market. That is how capable and skilled folks may improve the globe for peace, wealth, and growth.

## 9. High-tech Libraries-

The book collections at our university libraries are excellent, yet they are all disorganized. A serious study environment and an online library are required. Indian colleges should focus more on offering high-quality instruction that meets international norms.

## CONCLUSION

The system of higher education is undergoing considerable changes and adjustments. The expansion of new higher education institution types is accelerated by the globalization of economic activity and advancements in science and technology. However, funds have been located on various times to carry out substantial new projects in higher education. A case in point is the founding of technological institutes a few decades ago. When it comes to offering top-notch higher education in certain subjects, the IIT has demonstrated outstanding achievement. They have been far more costly than conventional schools and universities.

However, in general, funding has not been available for significant reforms in the colleges and universities, which make up the majority of higher education. In India, higher education performs a variety of functions. It is extremely important to many people, and improvements are frequently viewed as grave dangers to certain social structures that favor powerful groups. Language has been a comparable issue in which the government sought to

tackle a challenging social and political problem through higher education policy, and most often the adjustments are not adopted. In conclusion, higher education in India plays a crucial role in the development of contemporary Indian society and is closely entwined with the nation's political and social structures. It requires improvement, growth, and is crucial. Realistic impressions of what is and isn't achievable are important in order to successfully prepare for changes and progress.

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