



Higher Education: Issues and Concerns

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Abstract

The importance of higher education as a social good and as a contributor to national self-sufficiency has long been highlighted by academics and activists, but it is only in the past few years that Governments have started to accept the importance of a well-developed higher Education sector to India's Economic sectors and strategic weight. Quality Education has become an issue of importance as the landscape of higher education has been facing continuous changes; increasing social and geographical diversity of the student body, measuring demands of value for money, introduction on information technologies, etc. But how far these demands are met by the Indian Educational system to provide quality education is questioned.

Key words: Quality education, higher Education, quality-conscious , young generation

Introduction

While speaking about the need for quality higher education for the development of our country, our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru declared that "if all were well with our education institution, all would be well with the nation." Education for national development should aim at training the young generation in life skills, self-reliance, personality development, community services, social integration and political understanding. To attain this end institutions of higher learning should implement and introduce quality education measures so as to enhance not only the potentialities of the learners, but also to develop awareness in the learners to protect the independent sovereignty and integrity of the country.

Issues and Concerns

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Education sector to India's Economic sectors and strategic weight. An attempt to tailor higher education to the demands of employability and Economic utility is the need of the hour. Prof. Yashpal Committee report on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education has made a total of 19 recommendations to improve the quality in education. The role of universities as multi-disciplinary incubators of ideas where the academic freedom of the university is protected and skill development is made secondary to the pursuit of knowledge. Higher Education is not merely a tool for finding suitable employment; it should be the breeding ground for ideas critical of and critical to the development of the country. Higher education centers should aspire towards improving the quality of education by introducing advanced methods of teaching and learning patterns. Quality education should become the buzz word in the institutions to improve the standards of and meet the global knowledge society. Hence this paper attempts to highlight on the various issues and concerns that are vital to the growth of quality education. If one



has to sustain and survive in this competitive world, one has to be quality-conscious

Education is the most single factor in achieving rapid economic development and technological progress and in creating a social order founded on the values of freedom, social justice and equal opportunity. Almost every policy statement on education has projected education as the single most important tool reduce disparities, equalize opportunities and to bring about orderly transformation in a peaceful manner. If higher education in India is to serve the ideal of a just society then profound changes in the education system are imperative. The present education system is geared to promote competition rather than cooperation. There are so many issues and concerns in higher education that needs to be probed into.

Quality Education has become an issue of importance as the landscape of higher education has been facing continuous changes; increasing social and geographical diversity of the student body, measuring demands of value for money, introduction on information technologies, etc. But how far these demands are met by the Indian Educational system to provide quality education is questioned.

The National Policy of Education mourned over the poor equipments of education in India and attacked the defect in the existing system. They called for a change in the curriculum since the present syllabi as system is not providing quality education. In other words, little consideration is given to the employability of graduates and or the capacity of the job market. The Apex Bodies such as the UGC took note of the arising demands for a whole range of new

skills patterns and accordingly advised the higher educational institution\ colleges to implement and introduce advanced topics and enhance quality education as to enable the learners to keep in tune with the demands of globalization.

It has also be recognized by the UGC that the learners at the graduate and the post graduates level should be taught 'life skills' and other training programs suited to meet the needs of professional world and survive there by. While speaking about the need for quality higher education for the development of our country, our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru declared that "if all were well with our education institution, all would be well with the nation." Education for national development should aim at training the young generation in life skills, self reliance, personality development, community services, social integration and political understanding. To attain this end institutions of higher learning should implement and introduce quality education measures so as to enhance not only the potentialities of the learners, but also to develop awareness in the learners to protect the independent sovereignty and integrity of the country. The importance of higher education as a social good and as a contributor to national self-sufficiency has long been highlighted by academics and activists, but it is only in the past few years that Governments have started to accept the importance of a well-developed higher Education sector to India's Economic sectors and strategic weight. An attempt to tailor higher education to the demands of employability and Economic utility is the need of the hour. Prof. Yashpal Committee report on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education has



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teaching and completing the syllabus but not bothered to training the students in life, survival and other employability skills. Hence it becomes difficult for the teachers at the graduate\Post Graduate level to make the students there students from residential backgrounds to understand other things that are not included in the systems. Their they can containing say that these corporate residential schools should stop the making policy repeatedly by charging so high fees from the illiterate parents and thrive to teach quality education by providing the students with other necessary skills and implementing different teaching method in their curriculum. The UGC and state governments should lease to give permission to begin new schools and colleges since they are mushrooming in large numbers.

Quality higher education develops leadership qualities in people of different profession and develops awareness in the learners to protect the independent sovereignty and integrity of the country. The reputation, quality and overall contributions of the college's universities in a state have an enormous impact on the competitiveness of the state\country and its economic well-being. Educational institutions help people to not only acquire knowledge and information skill, but also values and ability to live and interact within and with social groups, as well as participate in cultural life and productive activities which may not always be economic.

Higher education is considered essential for any nation's cultural, social and economic development. The purpose of education is to make human beings capable, competent and wise to meet the contingencies and vicissitudes of life.



Hence the university is no longer a place where students apply to study, but the place where the learners are given training in the right mix of technical, business and fictional skills in the work place to meet the needs of individual business segments. To meet the challenges of globalization of higher education, emphasis on quality parameters becomes all the more necessary. Some of the recommendations and suggestions for improving the quality of higher education are as follows:

- A well planned and structured and syllabi and course. C\critical reading and thinking, practical field work where ever necessary and relent, application of readings and other skills, introduction and implementation of essential training programs such as soft skills, value education classes etc.
- Extensive and optimum use of audio visual aids and ICT.
- Improving the quality of teachers by providing them various benefits such as participating seminar and workshops giving them permission to undergo training programs outside the colleges, enhancing research oriented programs, encourage publications etc.
- A well- planned and structured interaction to be developed between Centers of Academic Excellence and other Universities\ Institutions.
- Practice of extra-curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.re-organization of Curriculum for making youth confident enough to speak, write, think, and perform.
- To adopt humanistic approach to achieve the human development.
- Teacher -student ration should be rational.
- Adequate infrastructure facilities to be provided to the staff and students.
- Admission to university courses should be made purely on the basis of merit.
- Teaching alone should not be the task of the teachers, but they should participate in extension activities.
- To provide adequate computer facilities through networking in institutions of higher learning.
- To provide a congenial atmosphere to all in the campus.
- The teachers should practice standards of ethics and morality.
- All the teaching, non-teaching and students of the institution should be accountable to one another under the present scenario of globalization.

Conclusion

It can certainly assure that quality enhancement cannot be predicated on the advancement of existing practice, but will require the undoing of colonial traditions and reinvention of new forms and new practices more suited to the needs and realities of the present world. One has to be quality conscious if one has to survive in this competitive world. The teachers and managements should give their learners the right values and enable them to foster culture. They should provide the learners with the skills and knowledge required to productive citizens in the global environment. They need to be field-guides as they and their students explore cast domains of knowledge.



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