



Quality Higher Education in the era of Globalisation : Need for Reforms

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Abstract: Higher education plays a vital role in the development of any country. The value of higher education can be realized only when it is intended to create knowledge and nurture the students by enriching their capabilities. Thus quality higher education is needed for the development of all the people more particularly in developing countries like India. There is a need to take necessary measures to regulate the private higher education institutions for providing quality education.

Key words: Higher education, growing, generation

Introduction

India has the largest higher education system and it is still growing with the starting of new colleges and universities in private sector. With the mushroom growth of higher education institutions in private sector, there has been a threat to the higher education institutions in Government sector and they need to search for reforms for their survival. At the same time, the private education institutions too are striving to show that they are providing quality education. Besides this, there is demand for quality higher education from the learners and their parents. A.M.Shah writes, "Boys and Girls of this new generation enter college or university with the expectation of education of high quality in every field. If they find the local colleges and universities not good enough they are prepared to migrate long distances." Thus, there is need to assure quality in higher education and necessary reforms are to be explored and to be brought in to the higher education. The present paper deals with certain issues involved and relevant to bring reforms for quality higher education.

Public Vs Private Education Institutions

The higher education institutions in public sector is different from private institutions, with regard to their quality teachers and equity in providing education to the people. Again, the Government colleges are equipped with necessary physical and other infrastructure. Despite the lack of infrastructure and quality teachers, the private education institutions are being encouraged and they are attracting many students with their own methods. There is criticism that the private institutions are being indulged in unfair practices for their existence. Thus, there is need to take necessary measures to regulate the private higher education institutions for providing quality education.

It is important to note that both the public and private higher education institutions should strive to provide quality education. The universities and regulating bodies need to take measures to assure quality in both public and private institutions. Internally, the management and the teachers have the responsibility to safeguard their



institutions and take steps to assure quality education.

Role of Teacher

Teacher plays a decisive role in providing quality education and achieving excellence in the higher education system. Teacher should be a model for both the student and the community. National Policy on Education, 1986, mentions, "the status of the teacher reflects the socio-cultural ethos of a society; it is said that no people can rise above the level of its teachers. The government and the community should endeavour to create conditions, which will help motivate and inspire teachers on constructive and creative lines. Teachers should have the freedom to innovate, to devise appropriate methods of communication and activities relevant to the needs and capabilities of and the concern of the community."

Now, the question remains whether the government provided such an atmosphere where the teacher can be motivated to play creative roles? Are the teachers sincerely involved in their functions to provide quality education in their institution? There is lot of criticism on the role of teachers in the present day times. Ramamurthi writes, "Many of our teachers lack adequate communication skills with regard to language fluency, technique of teaching and the use of audio-visual aids. There is a dire need and urgency for the teacher of today to master these skills, as they constitute the backbone of his function as an effective teacher."

It is necessary to mention here that though there are several training programmes, orientation and refresher courses conducted for the teachers, they have not produced intended results.

Thus, there is need to provide results-oriented training to the teachers so that their abilities can be enhanced. The teachers also, at the same time, need to rededicate to their functions to provide quality education in their institutions.

Curriculum development

Curriculum plays very important role in assuring quality in higher education. Unfortunately, this aspect is not given needed attention. A.M.Shah writes, "The declining standards are nowhere more visible than in the syllabi for teaching. These have not been updated for years, even decades, in most universities. Every attempt to update them is frustrated by teachers themselves". Thus, the curriculum needed to be enriched in order to realize quality education. This can be done at two levels. Firstly, the preparation of the syllabi should not be centralized. The teachers in the under graduate colleges should be involved by way of eliciting necessary information and suggestions in the preparation of the syllabi. The teachers who are in touch with the students are able to express their opinions in a relevant manner. Secondly, there should be periodical review of the syllabi in each subject at all levels at the department, university and state levels. These measures are certainly helpful in developing the curriculum qualitatively.

Evaluation – Semester System :

Quality education can be realized only when there has been objective and systematic evaluation system. Proper evaluation helps the student to assess himself and acquire the needed knowledge. It also helps the teachers to give required guidance and counseling to the students. It is necessary to note that the universities are not being given any



importance to the quality evaluation system.

The present pattern of annual examination system in under-graduate colleges is not helpful in assuring quality education. Because, the students are required to learn the prescribed syllabus/papers and concentrate on continuous lectures for the whole year. Again, there is no possibility to update the syllabus in a relevant manner. Thus, there is need to introduce semester system in the under-graduate courses too. Because, with the introduction of semester system, the curriculum can be widely covered into various papers.

Conclusion

In the era of globalization, there is lot of growth with regard to the establishment of higher education and the enrolment of students in large numbers for higher education. Though it is very much necessary for the inclusion of majority youth in higher education sector, it is equally important to provide quality higher education to them. It is important to note that there is need to strengthen public higher education institutions and at the same time good quality higher education is to be assured. Then only the developing countries like India can survive in the globalization world. It is relevant to quote Tilak, who writes "Developing countries require a rapid growth of good quality higher education for their very survival in the highly competitive globalised world. Some argued that a threshold level of gross enrolment ratio in higher education is about 20 per cent. Only those countries that could have such a ratio, could become economically advanced and vice versa. It is also important to note that only those societies that have

developed their public higher education systems could economically progress; and those countries that have expanded their higher education systems depending on private sector, or what can be called, 'predominantly' private higher education systems, could not progress much. For instance, most of the countries in South America could reach a gross enrolment ratio of above 20 per cent in higher education, but they continue to remain developing countries". Thus there is need to bring necessary reforms for assuring quality in our higher education system.

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