



How to Transform India into a Global Education Hub

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Abstract: *It is now on its mission to draft new regulations which ensure the foreign institutes free from the administrative control of University Grants Commission (UGC). The report also will contain a draft bill for transparent and single-window clearance for foreign universities together with the necessary regulations to ensure that their academic and administrative sovereignty is not endangered. By 2020 India will become the third largest economy in the world with equal growth in the middle class populace. At present, more than half of the population in India is under 25 years old and by 2020 India will overtake China as the country with the largest young populace.*

Key words: *population, transparent, 2020 India*

Introduction

The education system in India is considered as one of the largest in the world. The traditional Indian student mobility patterns have changed and the UK encounters new competition in research cooperation due to the widening gaps between demands of the industry and the availability of skilled manpower. The governments of India and UK may introduce several policy changes to navigate through. India will, no doubt, soon surpass China as the largest populated country in the world with an average GDP annual growth of 8% over the last decade and the demand for higher education among its middle class will jack up to 500 million people in the next decade.

As part of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's plan of "Make in India", campaign and drawing foreign investment while revamping the higher education, the Government of India has been asking the National Institution for Transforming India (Niti) to submit a report containing the information about the foreign universities planning to start

campuses in India. The Niti Aayog, in turn, will approach stakeholders and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and state governments for obtaining relevant information.

The higher education system in India initially designed to cater to the needs of the elite will henceforth serve all sections of the Indian society. In higher education it is very important to understand the changes in innovation. The growing demand for higher education in India and the necessary reforms being made to meet the needs of the next decade shall surely pave the way for establishment of reputed international institutions in India. By 2020 India will become the third largest economy in the world with equal growth in the middle class populace. At present, more than half of the population in India is under 25 years old and by 2020 India will overtake China as the country with the largest young populace. Though there has been considerable and unprecedented progress during the past decade, higher education in India is encountering the following broad challenges:



Gap between demand and supply:

Compared to 26% in China and 36% in Brazil India has very less enrolment at 18% leaving behind a very huge unmet demand for higher education. The Indian Government has plans to achieve 30% gross enrolment by 2020 i.e. provision of 40 million university places, an increase of 14 million in six years.

Inferior Quality Of Teaching And Learning

Indian higher education is suffering from lack of quality both in teaching and learning owing to shortage of efficient faculty, outdated, rigid curricula and pedagogy, lack of accountability and quality assurance and separation of research and teaching.

Restrictions on Research And Innovation

India is unable to have enough high quality researchers due to poor PhD enrolment and provision of few opportunities for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary working, lack of initial research experience; a weak ecosystem for innovation, and poor industry engagement.

Irregular growth and access to opportunity:

Indian society is highly divided causing uneven access to higher education with multidimensional inequalities in enrolment among several groups of its population and geographies.

The Indian government has three main plans for education viz. expansion, equity and excellence which will be thoroughly reorganized and remodeled during the next five years. It will also evince keen interest on funding,

leadership, management, quality assurance, accountability, improving relationship with industry, international collaboration and on the conduct of research and teaching and strengthening the existing education Sector.

A praiseworthy programme is in progress, the biggest reform in the governance and funding of state universities, to devolve authority and budgets for higher education from federal government to the state governments.

The private sector is expected to play a significant role in the future expansion of higher education in India which accounts for 60% of all tertiary enrolment and continues to grow rapidly providing most of the professional courses, particularly engineering and management. Several other providers are also eagerly awaiting legislation to have access to the market.

Of late, Education Promotion Society for India (EPSI), a national body representing the private Universities and colleges functioning in India, convened a one-day National Conference on "Making India a Global Hub for Quality Higher Education" at Bengaluru. More than 300 Vice-chancellors, Hon'ble Minister of HRD, Government of India, a host of other senior dignitaries, academicians, Directors and Principals from the Higher Educational Institutions attended the Conference. During the Conference, the roadmap for "Making India a Global Hub for Quality Higher Education" was discussed and addressed some of the burning issues pertaining to Higher Education viz. globalization, students' mobility and improving the access of quality higher education to the poor students. Financing Higher Education and the Challenge for Equity



& Access; and roles of values in Higher Education were also thoroughly deliberated in the Conference. It was also unanimously felt that the Institutions of Higher Education can contribute enormously to the economic growth of India on par with the Higher Education Institutions in Singapore, Malaysia and Dubai. Many Universities in Private Sector In India have been attracting foreign students who may become 5,00,000 in the next five years. The burning issue of UGC's regulation of 2010 which is causing difficulties for deemed universities also discussed in the conference. Many Courts have doubted the authenticity of these regulations and demanded these to be withdrawn. Some participants in the Conference have opined that higher education sector has not been getting its due recognition and benefits of liberalization and though Goddess Lakshmi is liberated, Goddess Saraswati is still under chains.

Considering the pivotal role of the private institutions in bridging the gap between industry and academia, the HRD Minister, government of India announced some measures to bolster the Private Higher Education Institutions. The major decision taken is that the Private Institutions will get automatic approval for the next five years by AICTE, if they are accredited by NBA for 5 years. The Minister also added that UGC and other regulatory bodies should help the private institutions with a good performance record. All affiliated colleges with good performance record should be given autonomous status. The institutions that are NAAC accredited and have completed 10 years of existence with good performance ought to be

encouraged by giving autonomous status. Universities with 2F or 12 B statuses will be allowed to run specialized skills-based programs in the second shift. The HRD Minister also requested the members of EPSI to give scholarships to the girls and physically challenged students.

Another important decision taken during the Conference was to discontinue participation of a nominee from HRD Ministry in the Governing Body of private universities for self-financing universities. The HRD Minister also requested EPSI to launch a world-wide outreach programme to showcase the strengths and positive side of the Indian Education System to ensure global exchange besides promoting "Know your college" portal of AICTE.

Being encouraged by both Central and State Government policies, private institutions are now serious about enhancing the employability index in their institutions in a humble way.

India has become the second largest education system in the world and its wide network of Universities offering skill-specific courses has helped India to become a global hub for higher education on par with world-renowned universities. After the launch of "Start-up India", "Make in India", "Skill India Programme". With the launch of Start-up India', 'Make in India', 'Skill India Programme', India has refurbished higher and skilled education totally and is fast approaching an envious place in the global education scenario".

Our former President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam said that "Excellence in thinking and action is the foundation for any mission. Excellence is not by accident. It is a process, where an



individual or organization or nation continuously strives to better oneself." The hallmark of academic excellence is the high standards of teaching, an environment conducive to learning and a culture of single minded pursuit of knowledge and passion for achievement of excellence. These attributes can be imbibed through discipline and determination. Let us have a closer look at the present global hubs of higher education, particularly universities of USA and UK which are attracting most of the international students across the world.

The top universities around the world have a very high global reputation for teaching and research even though the world rankings emphasize more on global participation in terms of enrolment of students, faculty and research contributions.

These universities have some of the following common features. They spend a large amount of money on research, teaching, infrastructure and support services. They have ample financial resources and the annual budget of top six universities of the Times Higher Education 2015-16 world university ranking range from 1.3 to 4.5 billion dollars, which in Indian currency amounts to 9,000 to 30,000 Crore Rupees, per annum. These universities are research intensive which is reflected by the large number of Nobel Prizes, Field Medals and other medals, Research Awards and Grants, Publications in high impact journals, Patents etc. received by them. These universities are characterized by highest levels of quality and excellence in teaching by offering a wide range of conventional, as well as, contemporary - new and innovative interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary

courses adopting blended teaching methods. They have large campuses, world class - state of the art infrastructure, facilities, and systems to support teaching, research and holistic development of the students.

Another important distinction is that most of these universities are private funded universities. We are also witnessing competition in Higher Education from other Asian countries. In the recent past many Asian countries, particularly Singapore, China and Japan, have also emerged as new global centres of higher education. They are not only attracting Asian students from neighbouring countries, but also students from all over the world. We have to act faster to establish our leadership in Higher Education at the global level.

In the light of the above facts, there is an urgent need to address many challenges in our path towards making India a global hub for higher education. India should realize its weaknesses and develop strategies for overcoming them. The dream of creating India a global centre of higher education can be achieved through strong political will, private sector support, strategic interventions in the right directions, and committed efforts towards quality and excellence. It is true that many Public and Private Universities are already excelling on some of the parameters defined for best global universities. There is still a need to develop them as centres of excellence for promotion of world class research. This would involve a large sum of investments by the Government and the private sector and supportive regulatory framework. Investments in Education will bring long term returns to the society, build reputation and credibility. In order to be an important player in the global arena,



Indian higher education needs to adopt a truly global outlook. It involves international collaborations for teaching, research and training along with faculty-student exchange programmes.

Our curriculum also needs to be matched with the global standards. Faculty members are the pillars of higher education institution. We need to attract, develop, and retain highly qualified and experienced academic and research staff of international standards. In the journey of making India a Global Hub for Higher Education, Indian Universities should not sacrifice core Indian values and ethics which may not be primary concern for many existing global universities.

Conclusion

In this connection one should always remember that Mahatma Gandhi has firmly believed in value-oriented education and said that, "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any." We want the universities to act as the fountainhead of knowledge creation and dissemination to meet the emerging global challenges. They have to discover fresh perspectives and assume new responsibilities to meet the imperatives of holistic human and social development. The objective of holistic education for holistic human being will need to be underlined as of highest importance as we march towards becoming a global Education hub.

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