



Strategies towards Access, Accord & Amplification - The Higher Education Enrollment in India

Dr. Vidya. H.N. Associate Professor & HOD ,Department of History, Government Arts college (Autonomous) ,Hassan-573201 ,Karnataka state

Abstract

India since post liberalization era has witnessed enormous expansion of Higher Education sector . Nearly 190 million Indians are aged 18-25. Their numbers will rise until about 2030 after which they will begin to decline. These young women and men will need a college education or vocational training to secure a better future. The Gross enrollment ratio (GER) has expanded form 6 %in 1983 to 19% in 2014. There is an expansion of college going students since 2000 .Universities & colleges have also enormously increased It is estimated that 18% of the Indian youth aged between 18-22 years are enrolled in HE The recent moves from government is targeting to increase this number to 30% by 2020. But there are several challenges. There is a need to improve teaching methodologies. Instead of teacher centric learning it should become learner centered teaching methods. The strategies to evolve high rate of student's academic performances through new teaching methodologies such as application of ICT, AV methods, etc are being considered but this should be uniformly applied across all HEIs in India. A focus on learning outcomes spotlighting his personality towards bringing out the excellent resourcefulness is needed.

Keywords: Higher education enrollment , learner centric teaching , creation of employability. Strategies towards improving ,

Introduction : India since post liberalization era has witnessed enormous expansion of Higher Education sector .

The statistics of higher education -

1. India already has 700 universities and 48,000-plus colleges and institutes across the country
2. The Gross enrollment ratio (GER) has expanded form 6 %in 1983 to 19% in 2014.
3. There is an expansion of college going students since 2000 .Universities & colleges have also enormously increased .
4. It is estimated that 18% of the Indian youth aged between 18-22 years are enrolled in HE The recent moves from government is targeting to increase this number to 30% by 2020.
5. A mere 20% of the total number of institutions that obtained NAAC-accreditation.
6. corruption is rife in the sector with private colleges often students to pay cash donations before they start their course .
7. Between early 1980s late 2000s the market was unable to solve the problem of bogus & poor quality private education because so



- massively out stripped supply the ratio of men to women in higher education moved from 8:1 in 1950-1 to 1:1 in 2014-5
8. 90% of the country's GDP and 75% of its employment will be derived from the services and manufacturing sectors.
 9. Corruption include higher castes seizing scholarship meant for low castes hiring irregularities to academic positions establishments of bogus colleges cheating in examinations use of colleges to launder money.
 10. The employability rates of Indian graduates are estimated at between 33-53%

Indian higher education is not in the reach of all as Indian HE is suffering from following issues.

1. Indian society is divide das rural urban / rich & poor / literate & illiterate / digitally literate & digital illiterate etc.
2. Indian HE is accessible to all irrespective of caste , creed , gender , income , but only good performers obtain HE
3. The accessibility to HE is constrained by societal factors.
4. The poorly equipped , poorly maintained private colleges offer HE cheaper rates initially but later succumb to money minting making the students mis-guided.
5. The poor quality of education leaves students nowhere .
6. The number of private colleges has almost doubled since 1950

Nearly 190 million Indians are aged 18-25. Their numbers will rise until about 2030 after which they will begin to decline. These young women and men will need a college education or vocational training to secure a better future. India already has 700 universities and 48,000-plus colleges and institutes across the country But it's evident it must build more higher education institutions to educate its millions. Still a more difficult task before the government is to improve the quality of education at the already-existing institutions. Better access to education will do little to improve the life chances of young Indians if the quality of education isn't of a high standard. The government has now made it mandatory for all institutions to be accredited, meaning we will soon know exactly how good or bad India's colleges and universities are. India must accommodate an additional 14 million students, on top of the current higher education enrolment of 26 million, in order to hit its 2020 participation targets .The system, however, is pressed by widespread quality challenges; the vast majority of graduates - as many as 75% by some estimates - are not considered employable

Higher education participation as a percentage of college-aged students (the Gross Enrolment Ratio, or GER) has more than doubled over the past decade but it was 25 % in 2013 & is 27% in 2015 .The Indian government aims to increase the GER (higher education) to 30% by 2020. But, even in the context of the system's rapid expansion over the last several years, this will require a further expansion on a scale the world has never seen. The challenge is immense in that India must accommodate an additional 14 million students, on top of the current



enrolment of 26 million, in order to hit that 2020 target. (Agarwal Pawan (Ed) - A Half Century Of Indian Higher Education Essays By Philip G Altbach Sage Publications 201).

Challenges of HEIs

1. The Indian HEIs is suffering from Outdated, rigid curricula. The curriculum fails to interlink student with his career dreams. The teaching inside the 4 walls , with stress on syllabi completion , has made HEIs outdated. The HEIs in western countries link Higher education with employability skills . A students is made to earn a living out of his higher education learning. But in India all HE graduates fail to find suitable employment. They fail to pass the ordinary standards of employer's requirements. There is a long skill gap which is making the HEIs to think about strategies to make the graduates employable.
2. There is a complete absence of employer engagement in course content and skills development. in HEIs nearly 50% of the HE passed outs are virtually not fir for employment. The vast difference in curriculum& employer needs are mismatched
3. In case of Indian HEIs , Pedagogies and assessment are focused on input and rote learning; students have little opportunity to develop a wider range of transversal skills, including critical thinking, analytical reasoning, problem-solving and collaborative working.
4. The Indian HEIs suffer from High student to teacher ratio, due to the

lack of teaching staff and pressure to enroll more students.

5. The Indian HEIs suffer from seclusion of research based activities and teaching is devoid of research based teaching
6. The funding pattern to research in HEIs influences lack of early stage research experience which makes the curriculum old & outdated..
7. An ineffective quality assurance system cumbersome affiliating system delayed administrative processes are also detrimental to HEIs.

Considerations-

1. There is a need to improve teaching methodologies. Instead of teacher centric learning it should become learner centered teaching methods. The strategies to evolve high rate of student's academic performances through new teaching methodologies such as application of ICT, AV methods, etc are being considered but this should be uniformly applied across all HEIs in India. (Jandhyala B. G. Tilak (Ed.) Higher Education In India: In Search Of Equality, Quality And Quantity Orient Black Swan 2013).
2. There is a need to augment funding facilities for creation of capacity building for students through Job oriented technical skills . A degree should prepare him to become an entrepreneur . The theoretical teaching inside the 4 walls of a class room should become more diversified with creation of exposure to students
3. A focus on learning outcomes spotlighting his personality towards



- bringing out the excellent resourcefulness is needed.
4. Faculty improvement programs , capacity building training , training in digital literacy , applications for achieving higher standard in teaching are needed to boost HEIs.
 5. A major challenge faced by HEIs is that there is a very mean ratio of integration between research & teaching . There should be greater amenities for research collaborations & more international partnerships in teaching as well as research;
 6. Laxity in creation of employability in HEIs is another major challenge. Better links between industry and HEIs to stimulate employability is needed.
 7. This is a digital age. All HEIs focus on linking HEIs with digital technology. Hence a connecting institutions through networks, alliances and consortia will amplify the learning outcomes.
 8. The vocational guidance through Placement cell in each HEIs has to become more effective with Proper funding for Placement cells. There is a need to establish the College Placement cells on firm footing. College Placement cells can channelize in to various types of career guidance activities, placement activities. campus placements, Special placement drive through Industry MOUs . (Jandhyala B. G. Tilak (Ed.) Higher Education In India: In Search Of Equality, Quality And Quantity Orient Black Swan 2013).

Conclusion- Thus there is a need to improve teaching methodologies & evolve strategies to amplify student's academic

performances through new teaching methodologies applied across all HEIs in India. A strong & codified focus on learning outcomes spotlighting his personality towards bringing out the excellent resourcefulness is needed. Faculty recharging programs , capacity building training programs , training in digital literacy programs , applications for achieving higher standard in teaching are needed to boost HEIs. Even though UGC & affiliated autonomous bodies of HEIs are transforming the HE sector. There is still along long way to go. With increasing Youth population there is a need for HEIs to diversify in to skill enhancement curriculum.

References:

1. Sahil Sharma -Indian higher education system Challenges & suggestions
2. Agarwal Pawan (Ed) - A Half Century Of Indian Higher Education Essays By Philip G Altbach Sage Publications 2013
3. Choudhury Kameshwari (Ed)Higher Education Reform In India Experience & Perspectives By Suma Chitnis Philip Altbach -Sociological Bulletin Vol 43 No 1 (March 1994) Indian Sociological Society Publication
4. Jandhyala B. G. Tilak (Ed.) Higher Education In India: In Search Of Equality, Quality And Quantity Orient Black Swan 2013
5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_education_in_India
6. <http://mhrd.gov.in/university-and-higher-education>