

# Challenges of Higher Education System in India: Needs of Improvement

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## Abstract

Education plays a vital role in the development of a nation. It gives a chance to contemplate about the cultural, social, moral and economic problems meet by a person India requires a concentrate on education for progressive and efficient individuals to guide the country, India needs to reinforce higher education in research and innovation so as to become a digital nation or a prosperous accomplice globally. This research paper basically engaged on the present scenario of higher education in India. The aim of this paper is to recognize different issues and challenges in the area of higher education in India.

**Keywords:** Indian Higher Education, Challenges, Improvements, Teachings and Learning.

## Introduction

India has large number of young populations which may be viewed as its greatest strength globally. But sadly, India is far away in providing education to these youngsters. Additionally, the country experiences crippling challenge in quality as well as in quantity, with regards to higher education. Its disinvestment in education in recent times has produced neither high-class research nor a lot of exceptionally prepared researchers, scientists, or supervisors to support improvement. There exist issues regarding management of access, equity and significance of education.

The authorities are required to take care of appraisal and accreditation of institutions. Education ought not to be permitted to deteriorate into a benefit making project. Besides, there are not many organizations in India that re-providing quality output in order to instill the learning abilities among learners. Except some institutions, India's schools and colleges have turned out to be vast, ungovernable, underfunded organizations. Politics has also entered into the college, impacting student's life. Less investment in libraries, labs, and classes makes it extremely hard to give high-quality guidance or take part in research. Higher Education System in India in comparison with developing or developed nations requires significant improvement.

In terms of students, Higher education system in India is the world's 3rd biggest, next to China and the United States. In contrast to China, India has the benefit of English being the crucial language of higher education and research. India teaches around 11% of its youth in higher education in comparison with 20% of China. The primary administration at the tertiary dimension is the UGC (India) that authorizes its standards, instruct the govt., and facilitate between the state and the centre. Colleges and Universities are the principle establishments of higher education. According to the All India Survey on Higher Education there were about 44 central universities, 540 state universities, 122 Deemed universities and 90 private universities in India in 2016-17. Apart from this there are several regulatory bodies like AICTE, MCI,

BCI, NCTE, UGC and those under state government however only a few numbers of quality institutions are there which can form the quality sector in higher education such as AIIMS, IITs, Hiest and NITs.

### Challenges of Indian Higher Education System

It is our 76th year of independence still our education system has not been developed fully. We are not able to list a single university in top 100 universities of the world. Various governments changed during these seven decades. They tried to boost the education system and implemented various education policies but they were not sufficient to put an example for the universe. UGC is continuously working and focusing on quality education in higher education sector. Still, we are facing lot of problems and challenges in our education system. Some of the basic challenges in higher education system in India are discussed below:

- **Finances:** A significant factor before the government of India is the issue of budget limitations in higher education. Spending on higher education by the govt. is one of the important factors to evaluate the quality of education in a country. In India, higher education has gotten less consideration as compared to public spending at different levels. The lack of ability of the state to provide funds to the extending higher education has caused the last development of private higher education. Also, reduced administrative money related help influences rural and small education institutions. A large number of public education institutions are compelled to route on self-financing cases and high tuition costs. Primary methods of financing in the private sector incorporate capitation charges, donations and high fees which results in higher education available only for a small elite part of the society.
- **Enrolment:** The number of students enrolled in higher education is in India relatively less when compared with other nations of the world. Only about eleven percent of the youth of India, is enrolled in higher education as in year 2007, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) between various parts of the society is highly unbalanced. Although the gender gap in enrolment has reduced after independence, but disparity among various departments is still present. Commerce, medication and technology are few study areas which are strongly male-dominated. Variations in GER exist at regional levels where some states have low enrolment ratio while other have high gross enrolment ratio that shows a considerable inequity among the higher education system. Also, the students that enrolled in higher education largely comprises from urban metropolitan areas. Enrolment of rural areas in higher education is quite less.
- **Political Interference:** In India, higher education is a high-stake issue. Many of the Institutions are owned by the political pioneers that play an important role in governing boards of the colleges and universities. Prominent political dignitary either own or sit on the administrative bodies of the educational institutions. This results in the extreme pressure on the administration of these universities. They use the students for their own selfish means. Students start to develop interest in political careers, conduct campaigns and overlook their goals.
- **Quota System:** Reservation on the basis of cast is also important aspect in higher education in India. Some people view caste-based reservations as a requirement to tackle prevailing socio-economic differences, others see it as exclusionary to the people of upper caste. As a result, student activism and political organization of academic staff are widespread and far reaching.
- **Infrastructure:** Classrooms, labs, Buildings and other equipments are important parts of educational institutions. High-quality infrastructure provides better instruction, improves student results and decreases dropout rates. However, in India higher education institutions run by public sectors suffer from poor physical infrastructure and facilities.

- **Low Level of Teaching and Learning:** There is chronic shortage of faculty in Indian higher education system. It is estimated that 30-40% of teaching positions are not filled. Many of the faculty members are not trained to teach effectively. Rigid and outdated curriculum, absence of employer engagement in course content and skill development results in low quality of teaching. Pedagogy and assessment focused on input and cramming among students give little chances to develop their critical thinking, analytical reasoning and problem solving.
- **Research and Innovation:** There is insufficient concentration on research in higher educational organizations. Only a few researchers are there in our nation whose composing is referred to by popular western writers. There are inadequate services and resources and also insufficient numbers of quality faculty to advise students. A large number of the researchers are without cooperation or not getting their fellowships on time which directly or indirectly influences their research. Furthermore, higher education institutions in India are poorly associated with research foundations. Thus, this is another major challenge in advanced education of India.
- **Structure of Higher Education:** Management of the Indian educational management faces difficulties of bureaucratic structures, over centralization, and absence of responsibility, professionalism and transparency. So, there is multiplicity in number of affiliated institutions and load of administrative functions of universities has fundamentally increased and the main focus on academics and research is weakened.
- **Accreditation:** Many organizations are misusing the lax regulatory condition to offer 'degrees' not endorsed by Indian authorities, and numerous foundations are working as pseudo non-benefit associations just to get the "profits. UGC and AICTE have been endeavouring to eradicate these private colleges that run courses with no affiliation. Many students often become victims to such institutions.

#### **Needs to Improve the Quality of Higher Education System Industry and Academia Connection:**

Industry and Academia connect necessary to ensure curriculum and skills in line with requirements. Skill building is really very crucial to ensure employability of academia to understand and make sure good jobs (keeping in view knowledge + skills + global professional skills = good jobs).

- **Incentives to Teachers and Researchers:** Industry and students are expecting specialized courses to be offered so that they get the latest and best in education and they are also industry ready and employable. Vocational and Diploma courses need to be made more attractive to facilitate specialized programs being offered to students. Incentives should be provided to teachers and researchers to make these professions more attractive for the younger generation.
- **Innovative Practices:** The new technologies offer vast opportunities for progress in all walks of life. It offers opportunities for economic growth, improved health, better service delivery, improved learning and socio-cultural advances. Though efforts are required to improve the country's innovative capacity, yet the efforts should be to build on the existing strengths in light of new understanding of the research innovation growth linkage.
- **Student-Centred Education and Dynamic Methods:** Methods of higher education also have to be appropriate to the needs of learning to learn, learning to do, learning to be and learning to become. Student-centred education and employment of dynamic methods of education will require from teacher's new attitudes and new skills. Methods of teaching through lectures will have to subordinate to the methods that will lay stress on self-study, personal consultation between teachers and pupils and

dynamic sessions of seminars and workshops. Methods of distance education will have to be employed on a vast scale.

- **Public Private Partnership:** Public private partnership is most essential to bring in quality in the higher education system. Governments can ensure public private partnership through an appropriate policy. University Grants Commission and Ministry of HRD should play a major role in developing a purposeful interface between the Universities, Industries and National Research Laboratories (NRLs) as a step towards public private partnership.
- **Fair Quality Assurance System:** Colleges and Private institutes should set up Internal Quality Assurance Cell and must follow a minimum standard to give degrees. The quality assurance system must be independent of political and institutional interaction and it must have a basis in the legislation. There should be operational, financial and academic autonomy coupled with accountability. There is a need of an independent accreditation agency with a conglomerate of government, industry, academia, society etc. means all stakeholders of the education to ensure that the stakeholders particularly the students are not taken for a ride. They should be able to know whether a particular institution delivers value or not, then things can be under control to some extent. It is also important that all institutes of higher learning must make public the acceptability of their courses and degrees. (ie. the status. recognition and acceptability of their courses by other institutions).

## Conclusion

The problems we are facing in higher education in India today includes -teacher qualifications, recruitment system, funding system, political interference, structure of higher education, research and innovation, teacher progression (API), quality control of private institutions, enrolment, procedures for financing central/state universities, methodology or schemes for grant of autonomy. However, there must be a broad academic development plan which incorporates students, teachers, researchers and professors, for a wide range of discussions. Since vast majority of educational organisations are controlled by either enormous private players or the government who refuses to meet or discuss with them. As great reforms are done for the benefits of students and society, they should be included for implementing any new reforms.

Apart from the government initiative more is needed to be done. It includes promising greater autonomy to universities/colleges, developing brand new regulatory environment for upgrading existing institutions into the world-class category. Besides, one has to re look at the entire range of regulations that impact higher education which includes--teacher qualifications, recruitment system, funding system, credit scoring system, teacher progression (API), quality control of private institutions, procedures for financing central/state universities, methodology or schemes for grant of autonomy.

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