



GLOBALIZATION AND CHANGING SCENARIO OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

India has a huge population of uneducated children. Although the constitution provides for free and compulsory education upto the age of 14. The system of education at all level is not satisfactory. Our government has tried to improve it by many bills and directive principles time to time. Yet, there is a room for improvement. Government both at the centre and in the states need to allocate far more resources and attention on ensuring that future generations are equipped sufficiently to operate in a knowledge economy. Thus, India has to find a strategy that will enable it to effectively address the multiple changes and challenges in the higher education sector. We can observe many changes regarding objectives, curriculum, admission procedure, and teaching techniques etc. in higher education. This paper explain some changes in higher education as students migration to get higher education, entry of foreign universities, privatization of higher education in India, contractual appointment in higher education, economic help for students to get higher education, emphasis on innovative, skilled and high-tech education, grading system in higher education, dress code for convocation ceremony, proliferation of colleges and deemed universities, boom of knowledge economy, single window to regulate higher education, emphasis on private investment to improve educational infrastructure. The new environment holds both threats and opportunities to higher education in the country. Cut throat competition for employment, high fee structure, challenge for local institutions are some examples of difficulties which are in practice. On the other hand, there are some positive features also student will could get a qualitative education easily. They would get a wide range of employment and opportunities.

INTRODUCTION

A nation's progress depend upon the progress of people and its people's progress depends upon the quality of education and bringing quality in education is the responsibility of our nation's Higher Education Institution. The reason with the fastest growing economies in the world is making plan to protect its economic interests by assuring world class education through its institutions of higher learning. That is why, there is a vast change in our higher education sector.

Present higher Education Status in India

It's enough to describe the higher education system, that only 12.5% student of primary school get their higher education. Out of this per cent, only few students complete their higher education

in India. At world level, only 23% students get higher education. Many developing countries are a far ahead than India.

India have 400 universities including 128 Deemed Universities. But this number is very small against our demand. According to the report of intelligence commission India needs 1500 universities and 50000 colleges more.

Plan allocation for higher education

The first five year plan (1950) accorded a high priority to elementary education and nearly 56% of the allocations were ear marked for this sector. Consequently, the share of resources for higher education was only 9%.

However, its share in the second plan (1955) doubled to 18% reaching a height of 25% in the fourth plan.

In the fifth plan it was	28%
In the sixth plan	21%
In the seventh plan	16%
In the 8 th plan	10%
In the 9 th plan	9%
In the 10 th plan	7% (2002-2007)

In the 11th plan it has reduced to 7% of the total government expenditure on education (MHRD 2005).

The trends clearly indicate the allocation to higher education increased from the first to fourth plans and declined consistently thereafter.

Issue of national priority

The UNESCO organized first world conference on higher education 1998 in Paris in which 182 countries participated to resolved that development of higher education should be one of the highest national priorities. In India, the task force on Higher Education 2000 set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) GOI (Government of India) sent out the message that higher education is sensitive matter now.

Changing Scenario of Higher Education

Migration to get higher Education

The innovative form of transnational education such as liberal migration policy for education, branch campuses have greatly expanded opportunities for students to study and learn outside their country of origin.

China and India, two most populous countries of the world know that they have to improve their higher education system both quantitatively and qualitatively. The massification effort of higher education is continuing at a great pace than it has been hither to. In fact, the number of students enrolled in these two countries along with others in the region has been the highest among the various regions of the world. The current enrolled figure of about 35 million students in Asia is by far the highest among the other regions like America, Europe and Africa. In china, the enrollment figure is more than 6 million and in India, it is about 8 millions as of 1999 (A. Gnanam).

Entry of foreign universities

One of the major change is that the free entry to A grade global universities into India. No doubt, such a step will have a great impact on Indian education system especially the higher education. HRD minister Kapil Sibal has signed a agreement with Australian education Minister Julia Gillard on dated 10 April 2010 (Hindustan Times). Universities are spreading their reach beyond geographical and political borders. The British, Australian and American Universities are setting up campuses in Singapore China and the Gulf. Universities realize that they can examine many more students than they can teach. Hence, many of them are collaborating with other institutions or franchisees to teach their courses under their brand name without getting involved in the direct business of imparting the education.

WTO (World Trade Organization) and Higher Education

While universities and the academic community in general would like higher education to be viewed as a public good, the prevailing argument in the WTO (Successor of GATS (Global Agreement in Trade & Trariffs) Secretariat is that higher education is akin to ‘private consumption’ directly benefitting the consumer by way of higher income. In April 2002, universities from Latin American countries, Portugal and Spain adopted a Declaration at the III summit of Iberian and Latin American Universities in Porto Alegre Brazil in which they declared education as a ‘Public good’ and requested their governments not to make any commitment on this issue within the framework of WTO. However, overtime the perception of higher education as a commercial service is gaining acceptance. The WTO Secretariat in September 1998 has mentioned that with the rapid changes in higher education “Education also exists as a private consumption item with a price determined freely by the providing institutions.’

“Most favored Nation” and Notion of “National Treatment” the principle of WTO

Most favored nation means if a country allows a foreign institution of a country to provide distance education services all other countries can request to have the same treatment. Similarly, if subsidy is given to one, other can request the same advantage.

The Notion of National Treatment implies an obligation to treat both foreign and domestic service supplier in the same manner.

Privatization of higher education in India

- While school education has a broad base, higher education suffers from a narrow base covering only about 71% of the relevant age group population. With the expansion of school education, the pressure on the higher education system to expand is expected to continue in India. In this context, two criteria of efficiency and mobilization of resources are put forward in justification of privatization of higher education.
- In the 80s a large number of institutions offering professional courses were set up in the private sector, Such 'capitation fee colleges (Tilak 1992) represent a case of totally leaving the responsibility to the private sector.
- The growth of private sector has led to two types of distortions. It encourages only certain courses, especially professional courses. It adversely affects equity considerations in education. Since admissions are based more on the ability to pay principle than on merit.
- The criticism about capitation fee colleges both in terms of admission criteria and their functioning have led to litigation. Consequently, the government is now trying to regulate the operations of these colleges.

Contractual appointment in higher education

The University Grants Commission's directive issued in 2002 for contractual appointment of lecturers for colleges and universities have made women employees and teachers most vulnerable, majority of contract workers happen to be women (Patel 2006). This has opened the avenues for super-exploitation of workers, employees and teachers working on a contract basis where, total control over hire and fire policy rests with the management. There has been massive retrenchment of women teachers from schools and colleges due to zero budget policy adopted by the state (Patel 2002).

Economic help for higher education

Student loans or education loans are mechanisms envisaged to shift the burden to the beneficiaries of education. Under this scheme individual students are expected to meet the cost of higher education. One advantage of the student loan scheme is that it is provided to those students who take advantage of higher education and is recovered from the same group of student. In other words. The incident of liability is confined to those persons who take advantage of the public provision. Another advantage with the student loan scheme is that the loan is recovered only after the loanee completes studies and starts earning. Both the committees (Swaminathan and Punnayya Committee) recommended student loan scholarships. Either through the proposed EDBI or by commercial banks at concessional rates. Earlier, this facility was for science students but now it is available for arts and commerce student also (Dainik Jagran), It's interest rate has been decided as 4% for convenience of students (Dainik Jagran 15 May 2010)

Globalization and higher education.

Globalization has important effects upon service market and upon the education process in developing societies, including India. One important social effect is a significant increase in what may be called “the spirit of competition” in particular of notion of individual success and mobility based on performing better or achieving more than others. This also involves a broad public recognition that education is possibly the most effective route to individual mobility, leading to a tremendous and unfulfilled hunger for education in all classes of society, including among the poor.

Emphasis on innovative, skilled and high tech education

World is moving towards wireless connectivity and educational institutions should provide that connectivity to student if India had to catch up with the globalization trend. (Alok Kothari Managing Director, Aruba Network Private Limited, India. in Daksh 2010 a national techno management festival at SASTRA University). The world is generating more information now, than that was 15 years ago, classrooms and curriculums had changed a lot. Tech enhanced instruction, real time learning, digital technology are in things now. The sales of laptops had overshadowed the sales of desk tops in 2007, On line form filling, examination, and result declaration are evidences of this phenomena.

Grading System in higher education

Grading system is going to introduce in higher education after implementing in secondary education. The examination on result will be in grades instead of marks at graduate and post graduate level in central universities. “Allahabad University would be pioneer to start this system in India. “(Rajen Harshey, vice chancellor of Allahabad University) Except it, external transfer system in any year is also proposed according to ministry of Human Resource and development (Dainik Jagran April 2010) for example, a student has passed his B.A. (I) from Allahabad university then he can get direct admission in B.A. (II) from any other University of India.

Dress Code for Convocation Ceremony

All the universities of India use specific convocational Gown designed by British government After 63 years there is no change in this gown which is supposed to be as honorable and royal dress for delegates. But Jai Ram Ramesh (present environment minister) has raised his voice against this traditional dress. (Dainik Jagran 2010).

Now many educationist and politicians have supported Jai Ram Ramesh’s view that this particular gown shows our surveillance upon Britisher. It is assumed, that this discussion will change the pattern of convocational rob in coming years, which is misfit to our weather t

Boom of Knowledge Economy

India’s present growth is led by service sector, which has had a boost due to ICT revolution. However this is a skills intensive sector and India is now moving up the value chain, which calls

for greater R&D efforts and requires knowledge workers as opposed to manual workers. A new strategy for meeting this challenge needs to be evolved with complete policy commitment on the part of the government. The knowledge sector boom unfortunately, can only reach the initial benefit to the educated who are generally better off and therefore, does not impact on the poor directly. The manual laborer who can qualify for a factory job is excluded from this growth process.

Single window to regulate higher education

Present HRD Minister Kapil Sibal's effort is commendable in this direction. He has passed a bill to unite all the statutory bodies like UGC, NCTE, AICTE, MCI, BCI etc. in single statutory body NCHER (National Commission for Higher Education and Research). There will be some experts of all the fields who will work together comprehensively.

Emphasis on Private Investment to improve educational infrastructure

National summit on higher education was held on 23rd December 2010 in New Delhi, on titled "Discovering New Models of increasing private participation." The government has set a target 21 percent gross enrolment ratio (GER) by the end of the 12th five year plan (2017) for the persons in the age group of 18-23, enrolled in various programmes of higher education . This is a formidable target considering that at present the G E R is only 12.4 per cent. There is an unequivocal acceptance of the fact that the industry must involve the private sector to complement and supplement the efforts of the government (Business India January 2011)

According to Vibha Puri Das , Secretary , higher education , the public private partnership (PPP) concept in the education sector needs to be explored despite various challenges . She feels that infrastructure like buildings, hostels and laboratories for educational institutions, can be created through the (PPP) model. The planning commission estimates that by the end of the 11th five year plan (2012), almost half the incremental enrolment target will be met through private institution. "To attract quality private participation, it is essential to allow investors a reasonable and legitimate return on their investments," Vibha Puri Das points out.

Some recommendations regarding higher education

- The Government resources for higher education are simply not enough Government supervision of higher education is dismal, to say the least. It should be enhanced and more refined.
- Recourse to quality private higher education, both university and non university is essential.
- India needs to have a proactive demand based policy towards private higher education including foreign institutions/universities desirous of setting up campus in India or entering into joint ventures. India can offer tax concessions/fiscal incentives for setting up campuses.
- The issue of raising the fees upwards to meet to cost of education is critical. If we have to maintain and sustain the quality of our government and aided institutions, the fees should

meet a reasonable proportion of the cost of education. A figure of 20 per cent of recurring cost is considered reasonable in the international scale; although in some countries (South Korea) it could go up to 40 per cent.

- The need for financing of higher education for students, especially those coming from low income households needs special attention. Like in the United States, we may also evolve a guarantee system, where students coming from low income households are eligible for a student loan without parental security or guarantee so that there is no discrimination due to the financial background of the student, subsidization of the interest rate for students should be based on his and his family income.
- Broad band services and provision of computers is an essential requirement of higher education.
- We should encourage foreign universities to come to India to set up independent operation and collaborate with existing Indian institutions/colleges.
- Uniform admission process, curriculum, evaluation, class structure, and fees etc. should be in practice in all over India.
- Members of regulatory body should be teachers and vice chancellors so that political interference could be minimized.
- The main recommendation, however, is for a common certification system for some standard skill. This could also save 50 per cent of recruitment and training costs and time. A common agency that is industry approved and government recognized can handle testing and certification at a national scale.

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