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IMPACT OF FOREIGN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL BILL 2010 ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Higher education in India is undergoing several changes continuously but still there is lot to done in order to enhance the enrollment in tertiary education. In order to seek qualitative education people are flying abroad which ultimately leads to the problem of brain drain. Thus, Indian govt. decided to pass, the foreign educational institutional bill 2010.

This educational bill 2010 emphasizes that inviting the foreign university in India is a double-edged sword: if the foreign player are not regulated effectively, it will invite in many not-so-good institutes, on the other hand, it is over-regulated the top universities, including Harvard, MIT, Brekeley and CMU will stay away. This paper brings into the pros and cons of Educational bill 2010.

INTRODUCTION

The term globalization is most closely associated with economic globalization. The integration of natural economics into the intimation economy through trade, foreign direct investment, capital flows, spread of technology and military presence. However, globalization is usually recognized as being driven by a combination of economic technological social cultural, political and biological factors.

This very concept of Globalization initiates Indian govt. to welcome foreign universities with the motive of imparting Education to the Indian people. With this vision in mind the union cabinet passed a Bill called the Foreign Educational Institutional Bill, 2010 which empowers Foreign universities to set up their campuses in India

So that the student who want to receive education in these institutions may get it cheaper by joining the India campus rather than making a becline for the foreign for the foreign campuses (it is expected that the fees here will be cheaper than in the US or other countries.

The bill states that institutions will not be subject to the various quotas such as SC/ST and OBC quotas (one would think that would have been a major demand by the educational institutions).

There is of course a fear by other colleges (including the premiere ones such as the IIT's , the IIM's and others) that if some of the more prominent institutions (world renown) come to India, then they will become an attractive hunting ground for professors at many of these local institutes who would look at joining these new institutes (with the expectation of a much larger salary)

With the **approval of the Foreign Universities Bill** by the cabinet, many people interested in Indian higher education are riding a wave of optimism and expecting that there will be a number of highly reputed institutions like Harvard and Yale which would be establishing their campuses in India. On the otherhand there are few people who believe that this will open floodgates for **poor quality institutions** which would enter India to take unfair advantage of students.

Both these views are at the extremes and require a dose of reality. In these times of budget cuts and decreasing endowments for university, there are very few willing and capable to establishing campus in India.

There are **three segments of universities** interested in coming to India with different needs and objectives.

1. Prestige enhancing (Top 50 Research Universities)

This is the segment of universities which are not interested in India as a source of revenue. They are primarily interested in adding to their existing prestige and relevance by offering access to their faculty and students to the emerging and increasing important market of India. These universities would not establish their own full fledged campus in India in next five years. However, they would be very keen to establish partnerships with universities in the form of student exchange. For example- Yale has just clarified that they do not see starting a campus in India, instead they are interested in expanding partnerships.

2. Prestige Seeking (next tier of 100 Universities)

These institutions seek internationalization to build their prestige and at the same time seek opportunities of revenue enhancement. They may be open to establish campuses by themselves or in partnership. For example, **National Management School has partnered with Georgia State University** to offer joint - MBA program. This also includes universities from UK forming partnerships to offer degrees in India. For example, **Lancaster University** partnered with GD Coenka to establish **GD Goenka world Institute**.

3. Revenue/Profit Maximizing

These institutions are primarily looking for additional sources or revenue/profit by scaling enrollments. In this category, lesser known public universities engage in twinning programs but they do not have resources to start their own off shore campus while the private for profit institutions are very interested and financially capable to enter India and have a full-fledged presence, they are not welcomed in India under the current policy frame world Mr. Kapil Sibal has further clarified that **education will** remain a not for profit sector. Thus despite having the potential and interest to enter India with full campuses, private for profit sector may also. Save to content themselves with partnerships.

Now the question arises that **will the education Bill 2010 bring the expected Revolution in the education system**.

The foreign education Institutional Bill 2010 is seen as a major breakthrough in the Education system of our country. Foreign Universities like Yale and Georgia Tech. have been given permission to open their campuses in the country. Columbia university has also announced it will set up an international centre for Research and Regional Collaboration in Mumbai.

Is the objective of opening our education system to foreign universities clear and well defined? The objective of passing such a Bill as, stated by government is to let reputed foreign universities come to India and set their campuses here so that Indian students do not go abroad in search of quality education , thereby also making students afford the costly foreign education at lesser price and living expenses. The Bill prima facie appears to be complete. But issues like regulation on hiring of faculty from Indian universities, impartial and merit based admission process have been over looked. Though it has been said that there will not be any 'reservation of seats', but entry to such pompus University through management quota can't be denied.

These universities have been kept under the purview of University Grants Commission (UGC) for their fee regulation and admission process but the Bill itself does not state about any regulation.

Are we ready to face the cons of it?

With effect of this Bill coming into existence, the day is not far when the cream of faculties teaching in premium institutes like IITs and IIMs may prefer to join these institutes on ground of better pay scale. The only check the govt. can impose is by increasing simultaneously the remuneration of these faculties. But there is a limit to which even this can be done. The success of these new institutes will depend largely on the quality of faculty they have and henceforth it becomes an important issue.

Will the Bill achieve the set objectives effectively and help India improving its education System?

As far as providing quality education is concerned, the foreign universities may achieve this et objective for Indian students, but there are lot of concerns as to which Indian strata would be able to afford this education facility. Definitely, the fee structure would be lesser as compared to what it is abroad but it is expected that the fee structure of these new institutes would not be borne easily by the middle and the lower class. Another important point which surfaces out is that whether a degree obtained from a foreign university in India will be at par the with the degree of the same university abroad? Will the job scenario for a student in India after pursuing degrees from these institute will be good enough as it is after graduating from reputed institutes like IITs and IImS. Given these set of arguments, students may prefer to spend little extra money and get a degree from respective university established outside itself than going for the campus of the same university in India.

The main objective of learning and engaging in state of the art research takes a back seat. In such a case the whole foundation of such a system of education will be weakened.

The govt. has to play an active role in the success of the foreign Institutional Bill 2010. A strict monitoring is needed to engage the foreign institutions in a healthy competition with the existing bodies imparting higher education in the nation.,

An Indian Bill allowing foreign universities to set up campuses in the country has evoked strong criticism from the chair of a high level national committee established to revamp higher education. On the following grounds the bill has drawn sharp criticism.

Yash Pal, the former chair of India's University Grants Commission (UGC) said "we don't need foreign universities - we need good teachers from abroad who will live here, teach here. and [develop] develop quality Education here. Allowing foreign universities in India is a recipe for destroying the Indian institutions and turning education into a commodity." He fears that contrary to expectations, the bill will open the floodgates for sub standard commercial institutions. India does not have the infrastructures to attract the worlds top universities such as Oxford or Harvard.

Sutpa kar, a law student from Delhi University, says 'How can govt. make sure that foreign institutes would do justice to the Indian education system/

Instead of inviting these institutes, the govt. must improve the standard of education. It is strong that IIMs are not allowed to open their campus in other countries while foreign universities are welcome to open branches in India"

However, A.P. Sharma, Principal, APJ School in S. Delhi, has a different take on the Bill. He says "I don't understand why we are paranoid about these institutes? In fact it is a commendable move by the government. With the arrival of these institutes. Indian universities will have to raise their standards as they are least bothered about the quality of education they provide."

CONCLUSION

Foreign Universities bill is a positive development as it will improve quality and practice of higher education. However, it has to be enacted in the context of the needs of India and deeper understanding of the landscape of global higher education. The universities that are invited should be non-profit making entities and should offer education at prices, suitable to a developing country like India. It should ensure, quality education which may enable the pupil to keep pace with rapid changing world.

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