

# INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PATHWAY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP)-2020



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## A STUDY ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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### **Abstract:**

*There is a drastic change in the education system in India. In earlier educational system, knowledge which was shared was used only to get shelter, gathering food, making weapons etc. The main motto was to pass on ethics, manners skills, and social practice to the future generation which is necessary for their survival. But today, India's higher education system is world's largest in terms of students. Next to China and United States. The transformation of conventional education into modern education system was the turning point to increase the talent pool of youth population. Day by day the colleges, universities are increasing along with teachers but, there is no meaning of expansion without excellence in higher education. The quality of education need to be focused as well as the access of education to all sections of the society. The present paper discussed about the different challenges in higher education. The paper based on data collected from secondary sources such as websites, research papers, published and unpublished articles etc.*

**Keywords:** Higher Education, challenges, conventional education system

### **1. Introduction**

India's higher education sector has witnessed in increasing the number of universities, universities level institutions and colleges. Since, Independence, 'The right to education act' bring revolution in the education sector. It is observed that despite growing investment in education, approximately, 25% to 30% of its population is still illiterate. The quality of education in India whether at primary or higher education is significantly poor as compared to major developing nations of the world. Hence, it is essential to understand the problems faced by educational institutions in India and accordingly the education ministry department should take initiatives to resolve the problems and find the suitable measures. Therefore, the present paper taken into consideration to understand the challenges and issues faced by higher education in India.

### **2. Objectives of the study**

1. To find out the challenges in higher education in India
2. To suggest some remedial measures for how to combat this challenges.

### **3. Rationale of the study**

In today's competitive era, one should have skill and knowledge to survive. The educational institutions who are leading the role of developing entrepreneurship skill and employability skills among the students. But, many institutions do not have well equipped infrastructure, qualified teachers, industry collaboration etc. Lack financial support and funding is also one of the problem faced by educational institutions. Hence, to understand the challenges and issues faced by higher education in India, the above topic selected for the research.

#### 4. Literature Review

- **Younis Sheikh(2017)<sup>1</sup>** – The aim of study was to highlight the challenges and to point out the opportunities in higher education system in India. The researcher presented graphically the growth of universities and colleges in India from 1970 to 2012 and also elaborated the challenges in higher education system in India. At the end the researcher provided some suggestions to make improvement in higher education system in India.

The present study is based on secondary data collected from various sources.

- **Pravat Kumar Dhal(2021)<sup>2</sup>** – The present paper focused on the existing scenario of higher education in India. The researcher tried to cover the important emerging aspect such as issues and challenges in higher education system in India. The research paper is based on secondary information gathered from various sources. At the end researcher provided some remedial measures to combat these challenges.

- **Dr.K.Kumer Jahan et.all(2015)<sup>3</sup>** – The present paper holds an immediate significance of creating awareness of many issues of concern to be taken care of by the stakeholder in the national as well as the global levels. The study throws gainful insight on financing schemes and environment aspect of higher education in India. The research paper was based on secondary data collected from the published and unpublished records, reports and contributions of several institutions, organisation and individual in India

- **Dr.Gouri Manik Manas(2020)<sup>4</sup>** – The present paper aim was to identify issues and challenges in the field of higher education in India. The research paper is descriptive in nature and based on secondary data collected from published and unpublished reports, contributions of several organisations and individuals. The researcher also focused on the growth of higher education in India. Finally, paper concludes that there was a need of plans requires to find out the solutions that combined employers, youths need of expectations from various stakeholders i.e. students, educational institutions, NGO, Parents and government.

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<sup>1</sup> Sheikh, Y. (2017). *Higher Education In India: Challenges and Opportunities. Journal of Education and Practice*, 8(1), 39-42. Retrieved December Tuesday, 2022, from [www.iiste.org](http://www.iiste.org)

<sup>2</sup> Dhal, P. K. (2021). *Emerging Issues and Challenges in Higher Education in India.*, (pp. 17-35). Magadh University. doi:DOI:10.6084/m9.figshare.12547589

<sup>3</sup> Christy, D. K. (2015). *Higher Education in India : Issues and Challenges. International conference on Humanities, Literature and Management*, (pp. 88-96). Retrieved December Tuesday, 2022, from <http://dx.org/10.15242/CEHM.ED 0115098>

<sup>4</sup>

Manas, D. M. (2020, June). *Issues and Challenges in Higher Education in India. International Journal of Research in Economics and Social science*, 10(6), 112-119. Retrieved December Saturday, 2022, from [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344789220\\_ISSUES\\_CHALLENGES\\_IN\\_HIGHER\\_EDUCATION\\_IN\\_INDIA](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344789220_ISSUES_CHALLENGES_IN_HIGHER_EDUCATION_IN_INDIA)

- **Wazir Singh (2018)<sup>5</sup>** – The present paper holds an immediate significance of creating awareness of many issues of concern to be taken by the stakeholders in national as well as the global levels. The present study throws a gainful insight on financing schemes and enrolment aspects of higher education in India. The researcher tried to present the current scenario in higher education system in India.

## 5. Research Methodology

This paper is a micro level and descriptive study in nature, based on secondary data collected from the various sources such as published and unpublished records, reports and contributions of organisations and institutions, Book proceedings, Government data from website, and research articles published in different ISSN journals and Education Department of Ministry of Human Resource Development.

## 6. Challenges in Higher Education in India

1. **Gross Enrolment Ratio:** Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) which measures the general level of participation has improved in 2021-22 at primary, upper primary, and higher secondary levels of school education, as compared to 2020-21. Notably, GER in higher secondary has made significant improvement from 53.8% in 2021-21 to 57.6% in 2021-22.<sup>6</sup> Though, the given data shows in increasing trends but, it is satisfactorily data as compared to 2019-2020. Due to Covid-19 Pandemic there was tremendous negative economic impact on society, which resulted to decreased GER ratio which would have been more than 55% in the year 2021-2022.
2. **Poor Infrastructure:** Though the number of colleges and universities has been increasing but, at the same pace, the infrastructure facilities which required not improved till date. In many educational institutions, schools, junior college, degree college and other professional like Engineering, MBA are functioning at the same campus. It is also observed that the time allotted for per lecture also not followed by the colleges due scheduled of other classes. Even fees taken by students, but the facilities which needed not provided to the students.
3. **Faculty Improvement:** The number of post vacant in the school, colleges and universities, hence shortage of faculty shortages is the biggest challenge in higher education in India. Many qualified NET/SET and Ph.D. candidates are unemployed even the post are vacant because state government not permitting to fill the post on permanent basis, hence these are then applying in other departments which is a biggest blow to the higher education system. Besides, this, teacher student ratio also one of the challenge in higher education in India. Every year universities circulated circular about increasing intake capacity to the colleges, but not permitting to appoint qualified teachers on permanent basis. The appointment of qualified teachers on clock hours or ad hoc basis demotivate teachers to work in the institutions.

<sup>5</sup> Singh, W. (2018, July). *Higher Education in India: Issues and Challenges*. *Journal of Advances and Scholarly Researches in Allied Education*, 15(5), 567-570. doi:10.29070/JASARE

<sup>6</sup>

[https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1873307#:~:text=Gross%20Enrollment%20Ratio%20\(GER\)%20which,57.6%25%20in%202021%2D22](https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1873307#:~:text=Gross%20Enrollment%20Ratio%20(GER)%20which,57.6%25%20in%202021%2D22)

4. **Lack of proper teachers training programme:** In many educational institutions, teachers who appointed are not well trained which has negative impact on their teaching. Hence, quality teaching is one of the challenge in higher education in India. Teachers training programme are conducted on very small scale and limited period of time like 15 days, or a month which found no result in improving their teaching quality.
  5. **Drop out ratio:** It is also observed that drop ratio is increasing day by day in schools, colleges and universities. Majority of students are taking break due to lack of financial support and also a very few of them taking break because they could not able to clear all subjects and having ATKT more than two subjects. In some religion, students specially girl students are not allowed to complete their education due to traditional mentality of the family members.
  6. **Culture of Research and Innovation:** There is inadequate focus on research in higher education institutes. There are insufficient resources and facilities, as well as, limited numbers of quality faculty to advice students. Moreover, Indian Higher education institutions are poorly connected to research centers. So, this is another area of challenge to the higher education in India. Even quality of research is also not up to mark. Many of the researchers going for cut, copy and paste formula which resulted the poor quality of research. A very few workshops and seminars are conducted by the institution to develop research skills among undergraduate and post graduate students. It is also observed that even teachers are not taking initiative to inculcate research skills among the students.
  7. **Lack of collaboration of Industry and Academia:** There are hardly few institutions having collaboration with Industries. The existing curriculum is helped to clear the basic knowledge of the contents. The curriculum/ syllabi provides only theoretical knowledge to the students which not helped them to stand in the market and get the employment opportunities once they received degree. Hence, it is essential to have collaboration with industries with educational institutions to provide practical training to the students. There should be involvement of experts from industries in designing curriculum for undergraduate and post graduate students which will definitely helpful to increase employment in the society.
  8. **Stressful environment at workplace:** It is found that due to lack of manpower, the limited teachers are overburdened. Involvement in curricular and extra-curricular activities at college level increased stress among the teachers. The intake capacity of students is more in each class which find difficult to manage the class and also concentrate on each student's personality development.
7. **Suggestions**
- The government should focus on rural area educational institutions to increase gross enrolment ratio, because it is observed that majority students from rural area not going for higher education.
  - Before granting permission to colleges and universities to establish, the government should check the viability whether they could provide a good infrastructure facilities and resources to the students.

- The state government and UGC should focus on the recruitment of qualified and quality teachers in the colleges and universities. If possible, they should provide NOC to the educational institutions so that they can recruit fully qualified and quality teachers on permanent basis. Hence, the problem of teachers' turnover can be resolved and institute can retain the quality teachers.
- The proper teachers training programme should be designed for knowledge upgradation. In teachers training programme, teachers should be become well versed with technology knowledge so that they can make their lectures interesting by using ICT as a teaching tools.
- At college and university level, should know the reasons of drop out ratio of students. They should bring noticed to the education department so that the drop out of student's problem can be resolved. Proper motivation at the part of students required from the institution side to decrease the drop out.
- In undergraduate level, while designing curriculum the research related syllabi should include so that students at least well versed with basic knowledge of research. The intercollegiate and intra collegiate research related competition and workshop should organised by the colleges and universities to inculcate research skills among the students. Teachers should provide proper guidance as well as motivate to the students to participate in research related activities.
- There should be compulsion to educational institution for having at least one or two industry collaboration. Even in designing syllabi, the experts from industry should involve so that students will come out degree with employability skills.
- The teachers should be less burdened of work so that they can focus on their core activity of quality teaching and developing employability skills among the students.
- The environment at workplace should be stress free, which will be feasible to teachers to work in proper manner and systematic manner. All facilities should be providing to teachers as per rules and regulations.

## 8. Conclusion

To make higher education system globally more relevant and competitive, need to implement innovative ideas from primary to higher education level. There should be good infrastructure of colleges and universities which attract the students. The teacher's student ratio specially in schools and colleges should be specified and intake capacity permission should not be granted to any colleges until the infrastructure facilities are upto the mark. The number of teachers' appointment should be as per the norms prescribed by the education ministry. To improve the quality teaching, proper training programme should be designed at universities level. The education should be based on theoretical as well practical knowledge to increase employability. Government must promote collaboration between higher education institutes and top international institutes. It is essential to develop research skills among students as well as teachers. Hence, the teachers should be motivated for participation in various seminars/ conferences organised at national and international level.

## 9. References

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# **GERTIFFIGATE OF PUBLIGATION**

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