

Status of Higher Education in M.P: its Achievements Challenges and Suggestions

*Archana Mishra, **Dr. (Mrs.) Mamta Pathak

*Research Scholar in Rani Durgawati Visawavidhalaya, Jabalpur (M.P)

** Assistant Professor in Economics Hitkarni MahilaMahavidyalaya, Jabalpur (M.P)

Abstract

Our country India is the third largest educational hub next to china and United States as compare to the numbers of students and educational institutions. In spite of growing number of educational institutions, international rating agencies have not placed the Indian universities amongst top 150 universities in the world ranking. The research question arises; before us what is the reason behind this. After study we have found various reasons/challenges due to which our country has not achieved any position in top 150 universities in the world ranking. In this paper we have discussed various reasons in detail for state M.P.

Keywords: Higher Education, Achievements, Challenges, and Suggestions

Introduction

In the present day higher education is a powerful tool for the socio-economic development and overall progress of the country. The goal Sustainable Development on education clearly highlighted to ensure the quality of education, inclusive education and equal opportunities for all by 2030. Higher education system is viewed as a sun rising sector due to the growing population. Both central and state governments share a concurrent responsibility towards inclusive and sustainable development of higher education. According to Ronald Barnett (1992), “Higher education is a matter of extending life chances: In this view, higher education is seen as an opportunity to participate in the development process of the individual through a flexible, continuing education”. In India main institutes of higher education are universities and its constituent’s colleges .In our higher education system universities and colleges are basically three type’s i.e. Government, private and deemed. Government universities/colleges are managed by the Government, private universities /colleges are managed by private authorities and deemed universities are managed by both Government and private authorities. India as a developing nation is contentiously progressing in the

education field. Although there have been lot of challenges to higher education system of India but equally have lot of opportunities to overcome these challenges and to make higher education system much better. It needs greater transparency and accountability, the role of colleges and universities in the new millennium, and emerging scientific research on how people learn is of utmost important. India need well skilled and highly educated people who can drive our economy forward. India provides highly skilled people to other countries therefore; it is very easy for India to transfer our country from a developing nation to a developed nation.

1.1. Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze the status of higher education system in M.P.
2. To analyze the achievements of higher education system in M.P.
3. To identify the Challenges of higher education in M.P
4. Suggestions for improving quality of higher education and Conclusion.

1.2. Status of Higher Education System in M.P

We have taken the state M.P for our study. In Madhya Pradesh, there are currently 15 universities, of which 9 are public. Further, there are over 300 colleges, a few of which have been awarded autonomous status and centers of excellence by the University Grants Commission (UGC), and the remaining are affiliated colleges. Government plays an important role in performance of any organization involved in public service. Madhya Pradesh will be the first state in the country to implement the National Education Policy from July-2021. In M.P there are different types of colleges we found such as Government, Private aided, Private non- aided and autonomous etc are available for the students. Types of universities and colleges can be better understood from the table given bellow:

Table 1. Status of Universities in M.P

| University | No. |
|----------------------|-----|
| Central University | 2 |
| State University | 16 |
| Deemed University | 3 |
| Private University | 20 |
| And Other University | 3 |

Sources: <https://en.Wikipedia.org>

Table2.Status of colleges in M.P

| College | No. |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Government College | 518 |
| Granted Private College | 75 |
| Non-Granted Private College | 789 |
| Granted Institute | 5 |

Sources: www.mphighereducation.nic.gov.in

1.3. Achievements of Higher Education System of M.P

Madhya Pradesh will be the first state in the country to implement the National Education Policy from July-2021. Action was taken for academic qualitative up gradation in universities and colleges through 20 components under Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh. This includes building construction, smart class-room and virtual learning facility, construction of integrated portal, strengthening information technology, establishment of distance learning centers in colleges, formation of entrepreneurship cells etc.

The Department of Higher Education is conducting constant reviews to provide quality education and better facilities to students. Strategies are being made to make innovations in the field of higher education. The limit of expenditure was raised to Rs one crores from Rs 50 lakhs under public participation for the development of colleges.

Permission has been given to start 44 new non-government colleges and 4 new private universities in the last one year. Model laboratories of 18 colleges have been upgraded with an amount of Rs 263 lakhs and 25 colleges with an amount of Rs 192 lakhs for library development. Under the college development schemes, 14 buildings have been completed out of 117 construction works being undertaken at a cost of Rs 96 crores.

More than 1200 course-based audio / video lectures were made available online to the students through YouTube. About 14 lakhs 58 thousand students were granted online admission at the undergraduate and postgraduate level. As many as 18 lakhs candidates appeared through the open-book examination system. Construction of 20 buildings was completed at a cost of Rs 260 crores

under World Bank project. Buildings of 29 colleges built under the heads of RUSA, World Bank Project and the state were dedicated. Administrative approval of Rs 767 crores for essential amenities in these college buildings was granted. A provision of Rs 206 crores has been made for the construction of buildings of 9 colleges, 600 study rooms in 73 colleges and 45 new buildings. The process of introducing agriculture, horticulture, veterinary and tourism courses in government colleges and universities and useful certificate and diploma courses as per demand is in progress. Arrangements have been made for portal, digital repository, digital locker, learning management system etc.

Virtual learning and smart classroom facilities in 200 government colleges and information technology infrastructure in 100 higher education institutions in the state are being strengthened. Online learning management and human resource management system was developed apart from rationalization of college, faculty and posts and arrangement of online evaluation certificate for departmental officer-employees. Efforts are being made to include creation of Integrated Portal, teaching, training policy for Directorate of Higher Education and Colleges, A-grade for 52 colleges and A-Plus grade for 20 colleges and higher education institutions in the first 100 institutions of NIRF. M.P Government has some schemes for the higher education such as *Gaon ki beti yojna*, *pratibha kiran* scholarship yojna and *vikarmaditya* scholarship yojna etc.

1.4. Challenges of Higher Education in M.P

The SCR report (2017) examined the challenges of higher education in M.P are as follows:

1. Shortage of resources

Enrolment in higher education is handled by state universities and their affiliated colleges. However, these state universities receive very small amounts of grants in comparison. Nearly 65% of the University Grants Commission (UGC) budget is utilized by the central universities and their colleges while state universities and their affiliated colleges get only the remaining 35%.

2. Teacher vacancies

According to UGC, the total numbers of sanctioned teaching posts in various Central Universities are 16,699 for professors, 4,731 for associate professors, and 9,585 for assistant professors. Out of the total sanctioned teaching posts, 5,925(35%) professor posts, 2,183(46%) associate professor posts and 2,459(26%) assistant professor posts are vacant. These are happening due to two reasons: (i) young students don't find the teaching profession attractive; or (ii) the recruitment process is long and involves too many procedural formalities. The recruitment process should start well before a post is vacated. In addition, to make the profession of teaching more lucrative, faculty should be encouraged to undertake consultancy projects and be provided financial support for start-ups.

3. Responsibility and performance of teachers

In M.P there is no mechanism for ensuring the responsibility and performance of professors in universities and colleges. For this, a system of performance audit of professors based on the feedback given by their students and colleagues should be set up. Other inputs like research papers, publications by teachers should be added in the performance audit in due course of time.

4. Lack of employable skills

From the SCR report (Report 2017) it has been observed that there is a lack of employable skills in students of technical education. Identification of skill gaps in different sectors and offering courses for enhancing employability in them has been recommended. Some strategies in this regard can include:(i)Industry Institute Student Training Support,(ii)Industrial Challenge Open Forum,(iii)Long Term Student Industry Placement Scheme, and (iv)Industrial Finishing Schools.

5. Accreditation of institutions

Here in M.P there is a need for the accreditation of higher educational institutions through the regulatory arrangement. Quality assurance agencies should guarantee basic minimum standards of technical education to meet the industry demand for quality manpower. The National Board of Accreditation should act as a channel for the quality enhancement and quality assurance of higher technical education.

1.4. Suggestions for Improving System of Higher Education in M.P

Suggestions for Improving the System of Higher Education in M.P are as follows:

1. There is a need to implement innovative and transformational approach from primary to higher education level to make educational system of M.P globally more relevant and competitive.
2. Higher educational institutes need to improve quality and reputation.
3. There should be a good infrastructure of colleges and universities which may attract the students.
4. Government must promote collaboration between M.P higher education institutes and top International institutes and also generates linkage between national research laboratories and research centers of top institutions for better quality and collaborative research.
5. There is a need to focus on the graduate students by providing them such courses in which they can achieve excellence, gain deeper knowledge of subject so that they will get jobs after recruitment in the companies which would reduce unnecessary rush to the higher education.
6. Universities and colleges in both public private must be away from the political affiliations.
7. Favoritisms, money making process should be out of education system etc.

8. There should be a multidisciplinary approach in higher education so that student's knowledge may not be restricted only up to his own subjects.

Conclusion

Higher Education is a powerful process for alleviation economic disparities in the society. Education is a process by which a person's, mind and character are formed and strengthen. In this paper we have discussed about the status of higher H.E in M.P. Though Status of H.E in M.P have been improved from earlier but this much improvement is not so much because here in M.P H.E have to face some challenges which hinders the status improvement of H.E. Due to this above we have mentioned some suggestions for improvement of higher education in M.P. I thought that by adopting above suggestions we can improve the status up to that extent we have to need. As a conclusion we can say that the status of higher education in M.P can be maintained when all together government, private providers and foreign universities participate i.e.

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