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A Study On The Significance And Current Scenario Of Higher Education In Telangana State - An Overview

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the issues, challenges and opportunities in higher education and its significance in economic development of Telangana state. It includes colleges, universities, and all higher educational institutions teaching learning towards which students progress to attain higher educational qualification is where in depth skills knowledge and understanding is imparted to the students so as to advance to new frontiers of knowledge in different walks in life in every generation higher education provides quality human resources strong generation knowledge and empowered society they make high production or productivity in all aspects. The quality of primary education reflects higher education quality and standards also availability of facilities and infrastructure like teaching and non teaching, labs, equipment, research, library, books, senior innovative faculty members encourage the quality of higher education and present SC, ST, and other backward classes (BC) including minority communities, Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) are depends on public higher education institutions in Telangana state but the higher education faces many problems in my observation across higher education institutions and all universities in Telangana state. The main problems in the Telangana are lack of funding/finance in education sector and poor financial stage, lack of high quality research & development, basic needs, poor performance in quality of education and universities ranking, no recruitment in public universities past ten years and higher education, decline standards in field of higher education and infrastructure facilities and also present Government of Telangana creates uncertainty in the field of higher education institutions like Central university of Hyderabad 400 acres of land issue, and out of the all states and union territories in India Telangana is the last position or the overall performance of the state

is poor stage it results universal adult is unskilled most of the population was illiterate. The Government focused on the above issues for the protect higher education in Telangana state. **Key Words:** role and impotence of higher education, and role of Government and policies in higher education, problems, challenges, opportunities, infrastructural facilities in higher education in Telangana.

Introduction:

Education is a process that begins at birth and continues until the end of life the early stage of life is very crucial since this period affects the following process. Higher education is the backbone of the any state or nation. Higher education refers to post secondary education, typically pursued after completing secondary education, in institutions like universities and colleges. It involves studying advanced topics, acquiring specialized knowledge, and developing skills for various careers and opportunities. It fosters critical thinking, problem solving skills, and intellectual curiosity, leading to self discovery and personal growth, expands career options and enhances earning potential by equipping individuals with specialized knowledge and skills, it contributes to economic growth by producing a skilled workforce and driving innovation, it promotes exposure to diverse perspectives, cultures, and ideas, fostering a well rounded worldview, higher education institutions are hubs for research and innovation, contributing to advancements in various fields, include inadequate public funding and resources, outdated curriculum, poor infrastructure and facilities, faculty shortages, low research output, governance issues, and low global university rankings India has the world's second largest higher education system, with over 700 universities and 35,000 colleges, serious concerns remain about the quality of these institutions. India's universities lag in infrastructure, facilities, research output, and international rankings compared to global standards, it significant problem is the lack of funding for higher education, which is far below the global average of 4.5 percent India spends about 1.2 percent of its GDP this results in poor infrastructure, including outdated laboratories, crowded classrooms, and a lack of basic amenities, libraries are under stocked and slow to access digital resources, campus facilities like dorms, cafeterias, and internet are often inadequate for the number of students, teaching and non teaching shortages also impact quality. India's best universities have student-faculty ratios of 20:1 or higher, well above the 10:1 ratio at leading world universities, heavy teaching loads leave professors little time for research, curriculum design, and student mentoring, low pay scales also make attracting and retaining the best talent hard, research output is lacking, none of India's universities rank among the global top 200 in research impact, compared to 136,000 papers published by Chinese universities in leading journals, Indian universities published only 27,000 in 2017, the faculty promotion continues to depend more on seniority than research productivity. Indian institutes score poorly in global university rankings. In the 2020 QS World University rankings, only two the Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science rank among the top 200, India's best university, IISc Bangalore, ranks only 172 globally, significantly hike public funding and incentivize private investment in higher education to improve quality, expanding research grants, upgrading facilities,

recruiting international faculty, and creating collaborative Ph.D. programs with global universities could help improve India's university rankings and outlook, political will is critical to drive the drastic reforms needed for India to produce world class institutes and competitive graduates, in response, Government of India has initiated in the recent past to tackle the issues facing higher education, National Education Policy 2020 it aims to increase public investment in education up to 6 percent of GDP and allow foreign universities to open campuses in India this could help increase capacity and competition, the institute of eminence scheme provides special funding and autonomy to select institutes to boost them into the top 100 global rankings so far, letters of intent have been issued to 14 institutes, Higher Education Financing Agency 2018, it provides low cost loans and financial assistance to upgrade infrastructure in tertiary institutions. Research funding schemes IMPRINT and UAY aim to identify and fund research projects that have a societal impact the Prime Minister's research fellowship also supports Ph.D. scholars to improve research quality, digital India initiatives programs like DIKSHA, E Pathshala, and National digital library are helping provide digital education resources for students and faculty, foreign collaborations the government has established schemes to foster university partnerships and faculty exchanges with countries like the US, UK, Australia, and Japan. UGC has graded universities into different categories according to their quality, granting more autonomy to higher performing institutes and private participation policies now allow more significant private and foreign educational investment, with easier entry norms, the above measures may still not be enough, sustained increases in public funding towards 6 percent of GDP, radical governance reforms, and a holistic approach are needed to raise standards over the long term, the results will take time to be realized, current GER is only 27.2 percent 2020 survey data, increasing this to 50 percent in 5 years will require massive capacity expansion. India currently lacks enough quality institutions and faculty to support such a rise in enrollment, the focus will need to be on both quality and quantity, requires huge investments NEP itself estimates that over Rs 1 lakh crore will be needed to increase GER to 50 percent, which looks unlikely given the current level of investment, access limitations still exist for disadvantaged groups, especially in rural areas, and special efforts are needed to increase their participation. dropout rates from secondary education remain high drop outs are unlikely to pursue higher education without significant improvements in the school system, economic growth has slowed recently, job creation may not keep pace with rising college graduates if capacity is rapidly expanded, not able to totally control the early stage because children remain under the care of their families until they begin attending school even if children study in schools, many factors such as friends in and out of the school affect their educational process, the educational system focuses on children from preschool until graduate education, educational gains mainly shift from public to individual gains as they attend a higher level of school each year, that is why education is compulsory in the first 10 or 12 years for children, education can be divided into two categories formal education and non-formal education, there is no certain line to distinguish one from the other because formal education to some extent consists of non formal education children learn not only at the classroom but also from each other at the school environment, educational

systems are intended to improve children's knowledge and skills to do so, they need a plan of action and curriculum, and the plan consists of teaching methods, learning objectives, assessments, learning content and educational materials, the system implements formal and non formal education programs, Telangana is ranked 12th in the country in terms of population, with 350.04 lakh residents as per the 2021 and ranked 11th in area 1,12,077 sq. km, the population is distributed across the states, each with unique socio-economic characteristics, the Godavari and Krishna rivers have majorly drained the region, with 79 percent and 69 percent of the catchment areas, respectively, the official languages of the state are Telugu and Urdu, the state has 33 districts, 620 mandals and 12,769 Gram panchayats except Hyderabad all districts rural backwardness and agricultural backwardness and lack of socio-economic infrastructural facilities. The education of Telangana includes several renowned universities that provide various academic programs. The University of Hyderabad, a public university that is among the best in India, stands out among these as the most notable, other notable institutions in Telangana include Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad, well known for its engineering programs, and Osmania, Kakatiya, Telangana, Satavahana, Mahatma Gandhi, Palamuru and Prof. Jaya Shanker Agriculture Universities, largest universities. Telangana is home to several other colleges and universities with programs in subjects including management, law, agriculture, and many others, these universities have substantially contributed to Telangana's educational system's growth and have generated many accomplished graduates who have had a significant impact in various sectors. A dual degree education has several advantages, it provides more career options and a broader base of competencies than a single course, preparing students to take on jobs or start a business independently, many innovations arise at the intersections of different disciplines, so dual degree education is expected to promote research and innovation, universities are expected to quickly and widely implement this policy for the policy to achieve its intended goals, students must evaluate and analyse the available courses and make judicious decisions to maximize these benefits, for example, engineering graduates may consider undertaking B. Com or BA or BBA courses in parallel, it may also allow students to undertake a vocational course alongside an academic course, dual degrees will be helpful not just to the students but to other stakeholders like employers if the courses are chosen in a complementary and value accreting manner, several Institutes of National Importance are part of education in Telangana as they are well known organizations honored by the Indian government for their excellence in research and teaching, are located in Telangana one of India's top engineering schools and best renowned for its cutting edge research in fields like robotics, artificial intelligence, and materials science is the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad, which is the most well-known of them, a technological university in the nation noted for its research in disciplines including computer science, electronics, and mechanical engineering is the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal, the institutions play a crucial role in fostering innovation and expansion in Telangana's education and research sectors by bringing in teachers and students worldwide, thus boosting the education system in Telangana, the Directorate of collegiate education manages 146 Government degree colleges, enhancing higher education

with a Gross enrollment ratio of 39.3 percent while technical education initiatives prioritise curriculum updates and industry partnerships. TASK Telangana academy for skill and knowledge improves employability through skill development programs, benefiting students and faculty, as per NFHS-5 (2019-20), Telangana's literacy rate is 73.4 percent male literacy at 82 and female literacy at 64.8 percent compared to the Telangana literacy rate was estimated 2021 76.09 percent, male 74.95 percent female 57.92 percent with a notable improvement, however, disparities exist between urban and rural areas and male and female literacy rates, it has also been observed that in Telangana, a higher percentage of children aged 14-18 are outside of school compared to the national average, the national average is 13.2 percent, in Telangana, 22.1 percent of children in this age group are not enrolled in any school or college, 26 percent of boys and 17.4 percent of girls are out of the education system, for children aged 17-18, the number rises to 40.1 percent, among these older teenagers, 68.7 percent work more than 15 days a month. However, 89.2 percent of these 17-18 year olds, despite being out of school, are proficient in using digital technology the government is implementing several initiatives to bridge these gaps.

Findings of the study:

1. Lack of funding and poor financial stage.
2. Lack of high quality research and development, basic needs.
3. Poor performance in quality of education and universities ranking.
4. No recruitment in public universities past ten years and higher education.
5. Decline standards in field of higher education and infrastructure facilities.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study role and importance of higher education and present higher education status in Telangana state.
2. To examine the problems, challenges and opportunities in higher education in the study area.
3. To encourage private participation in the expansion of collegiate education and develop under graduate and post graduate education including the humanities of courses.

Hypothesis of the study:

1. To study the access of quality of education and it reflects socio-economic development of the society/state.
2. To examine the present higher education in the Telangana its impact on the Telangana state.

Scope of the study:

This article covered the relationship between higher education and economic development in state economy and many public universities windup humanities like social sciences courses and workload for reducing the financial burden of the university but it is ignore the economically backword classes and weaker sections of the society. Lack of adequate up-gradation of curriculum benchmark and no common course content common exam procedure national wide, lack of specialized courses or modular and rigid curriculum learning considered as one step process, education is exam oriented, and no fixed parameters and quality aspects, lack of industry institute interaction, rigidity in curriculum, lack of multidisciplinary courses, role of teacher is confined to teaching and policy makers, lack in accepting immediate changes, learning is job oriented and common factor.

Methodology of the study:

The present study is based on the secondary data which data collected from various books, publications, magazines, research papers, journals, government web site, news papers this study focused on challenges and opportunities in higher education in Telangana states. Improving literacy is crucial for the state's economic social developmental programmes, directly impacting employability, productivity, and the overall quality of life, higher literacy rates and skilling initiatives can enhance the state's workforce, attract investments, and drive technological and economic advancements, therefore, prioritizing education, literacy, and skilling initiatives is essential for leveraging the demographic dividend and fostering inclusive growth in Telangana.

Universities in Telangana state -- 2023-24

Name of the University	Place- established year	Type	Specialization-enrollment students
University of Hyderabad	Hyderabad -1974	Central	General -5000
Telangana University	Nizamabad - 2006	State	General - 6500
Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University	Hyderabad -- 2014	State	Horticulture
Satavahana University	Karimnagar - 2006	State	General -
Woxsen University	Hyderabad - 2014	Private	General
SR University	Warangal - 2018	Private	General
Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies	Basara - 2008	State	Technical – 3,500
Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University	Hyderabad - 1985	State	Cultural
Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University	Hyderabad - 2014	State	Agricultural
Palamuru University	Mahbubnagar - 2008	State	General
Osmania University	Hyderabad - 1918	State	General – 10,000

Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences	Hyderabad - 1989	State	Medical
P. V. Narasimha Rao Telangana Veterinary University	Hyderabad - 2014	State	Veterinary
Mahindra University	Hyderabad - 2020	Private	General
Nalsar University of Law	Hyderabad - 1998	State	Law - 1200
Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda	Nalgonda - 2007	State	General
Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences	Warangal 2014	State	Health care
Maulana Azad National Urdu University	Hyderabad – 1998	Central	Language – 7,500
Malla Reddy University	Hyderabad – 2020	Private	General
Kakatiya University	Warangal – 1976	State	General - 8000
Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University	Hyderabad – 1972	State	General – 12,000
English and Foreign Languages University	Hyderabad – 1958, 2007	Central	Language - 4000
Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India	Hyderabad - 1984	Deemed	General
Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University	Hyderabad - 2008	State	Architecture and Fine Arts
Chaitanya Deemed to be University	Moinabad Hyderabad 1991, 2019	Deemed	UG, PG, Engg, Pharm', manag', Agricult - 2500
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar open university	Hyderabad – 1982	State	General -
Anurag University	Hyderabad – 2020	Private	General -
International Institute of Information Technology	Hyderabad - 1998	Deemed	Technical

The Young India Skills University (YISU) is a skill development university in Telangana that was established in 2024. The university is a public-private partnership (PPP) between the state government and industry, the university offers degree, postgraduate, and certificate courses aims to provide industry-relevant skills to students, the campuses in mucherla, gachibowli, and Hi-Tech city, the university will offer courses in various sectors, including healthcare, pharmaceuticals, artificial intelligence, and more employability. Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University (SSCTU) is a public central Tribal university it was established in Mulugu, Mulugu District in 2023, and India by the Act of Parliament Act 36 of 2023 by an amendment to the central universities Act, 2009. Telangana state has 28 universities, including 17 state universities, 3 central universities, 3 deemed universities, and 5 private universities, Skill university in Hyderabad is crucial for fostering a highly skilled workforce that meets the specific needs of the tech sector this proximity ensures that students receive practical, industry relevant education and training, enhancing their employability and bridging the gap between academic knowledge and professional skills, it promotes collaboration between academia and industry, leading to innovative research, internships, and job placements, such an institution supports the region's economic growth, attracts investments and reinforces Hyderabad's position as a leading hub for technology and innovation, recognizing the pressing need for skill development, the CM Revanth reddy, during a meeting on July 8th 2024, proposed the establishment of a skill university within the premises of the engineering staff college given the college's proximity to IT companies and other industries, at present 195 degree colleges functioning, in the state with an enrollment of 1,41,250 students consisting of 71,618 men and 69632 women engineering colleges. There are about 354 engineering colleges in the state with a total intake of 96,648 students and polytechnic colleges numbering 250 with a strength of 61.799 students, there

are 780 hostels with a strength of 61,526 students for SC, 203 hostels with a strength of 43,361 students and 283 ashrams schools with a strength of 84,558 students for ST's and 737 hostels with a strength of 58,428 students for BC'S. Engineering colleges 336, Government engineering colleges 17, medical colleges 17, MCA colleges 197, MBA colleges 496, education colleges 225, pharmacy colleges 168, law colleges 18.

Telangana has 2,537 higher secondary educational institutions, 6.9 lakh students study in these institutions all the institutions are not Government or aided are private. And 1,196 degree colleges with 4.26 lakh students as per the second Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS-2) 2018-19, out of the total adult population 15 years and above in the state, 18.1 percent have completed secondary education, 12.4 percent have completed higher secondary education, 11.3 percent are graduates and 3.9 percent are postgraduates or above these figures are higher than the corresponding all India average, the state's higher education GER is the 9th highest in the country, is the 8th highest for the SC category 33 percent and 7th highest for the ST category 30.0 percent the state has 17 public universities, two of which, Osmania University and University of Hyderabad, are included in the list of university with potential for excellence by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Telangana is also home to one of the top ranked law colleges in the country, the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research NALSAR law university the global education development agenda reflected in the Goal 4 SDG-4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015 seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030, the greater access requires an enhancement of the education institutional capacity of the higher education sector to provide opportunities to all those who deserve and desire higher education the rising demand for higher education gross enrolment ratio GER is often used to measure higher education access as per NEP 2020, GER should reach 50 percent by 2035, equity involves fair access of the poor and the socially disadvantaged groups to higher education, the different dimensions of access, equity and affordability in higher education system and mechanisms in place to enhance access and equity without compromising on quality, efforts and initiatives.

Importance of the study:

The state of Telangana is struggled many decades for Nillu, Nidulu and Niyamakalu its reflect Bangaru Telangana is based on quality higher education the state. Higher education plays an important role in the process of development of a country. It acquires more significance in the context of a developing country like India with 28 states at various levels of development. The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) felt that higher education in India made a significant contribution to economic development, social progress and political democracy in Independent India. It is an important source of dynamism for the economy as it creates wider social and economic opportunities for people and reduces social, economic and regional inequalities. India possesses the third largest higher educational system in the world next to America and China. But the growth of higher educational institutions is uneven among different States, social groups and gender. The

policy makers have to take into account the above factors in order to provide equal opportunities to all people in the country and also in the states. It is the youngest state in south India but not the poorest when compared to many other states, it is the twelfth largest state in terms of both area and size of the population. Telangana became a reality after a protracted struggle for more than six decades and many sacrifices and struggles by the people and unemployed youth, the Telangana movement was basically a people's movement. It had the unique character of possessing predominantly weaker sections such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and Minorities who constitute nearly 90 percent of the total population, to fulfill the wishes of these sections, a new model of development which is inclusive is required, the important feature of Telangana is that more than 50 percent of its population is below the age of 25 years, had the unique character of possessing predominantly weaker sections, it has the highest frustrated youth suffering from unemployment, providing education and employment opportunities to the unskilled, unorganised and illiterate is a very difficult task, higher education in Telangana is provided predominantly in the public sector and there are more than dozen state universities covering 80 percent of the total districts in combined state of Telangana, but technical education is mostly in the private sector, the most disturbing feature of higher education in Telangana is the absence of Vice chancellors for more than 10 universities which is a matter of great concern for the stakeholders as the day-to-day administration cannot be provided on proper lives by the in-charges of administration. Hence, appointment of Vice chancellors at the earliest to keep the universities on the right track acquires significance. The Vice chancellors have to take up the challenges before them very seriously, another serious and big agenda is awaiting their arrival, one of the immediate challenges faced by the universities is the absence of full fledged executive councils which are the top management bodies, democratic functioning of universities requires the constitution of these bodies for proper policy making, for the past 10 years, important decisions have been taken by the varsities with the truncated executive councils which are legally unacceptable causing damage to the image of the universities, another major challenge to the universities of Telangana in particular and country in general is recruitment of teaching and non teaching staff, available data indicates that around 80 percent of the faculty positions are vacant in the universities of Telangana put together, the day-to-day workload is carried out by the contract and part time teachers with less remuneration or payment who are waiting for their regularization and improvement of their livelihoods, more serious matter of concern when compared to other issues of university administration, the absence of permanent faculty, it is becoming very difficult to appoint Heads, Chairpersons, Board of Studies, Deans and Principals who look after the day-to-day administration, lack of quality enhancement in higher education institutions without regular teaching staff, recently regular teaches retirement age increased 65 years but it is meager reform according to a report brought out by NAAC, only 11 percent of the accredited higher education institutions are of 'A' Grade, 71 percent are of 'B' Grade and the remaining are of 'C' Grade. If this trend continues, there will be further deterioration of quality of education, another important concern before Telangana varsities is the financial crunch, universities are also not in a position to attract funds from various

agencies like UGC, DST, DBT, RUSA, AICTE etc., which halted the development of universities, added to this, the Block Grants provided by the State to the varsities are also at pathetic levels adding fuel to the fire, onetime big push of finances by the state government is a prerequisite for proper nourishment of starving universities, available data shows that public expenditure on higher education has not improved significantly over the years, it shows that RUSA funds are very much unutilized by the state universities as they are not fulfilling the conditions of RUSA due to inadequate permanent staff, unique feature of Telangana higher education institutions is that a major percentage of them are not yet accredited, but measurement of quality is an important prerequisite to pull the funds from various agencies, at the state level, a quality control centre may be established by the government to promote quality measurement, further, the colleges under the jurisdiction of every university must be encouraged to get autonomous states as suggested by the UGC to decrease the administrative burden of universities and concentrate more on academic activities. Higher education in India is providing only job seekers but not job creators as observed by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. It is not an exception to this hence, the universities of Telangana must take into account the unemployed youth and establish skill development centres to improve the employability skills for enhancing employment to remove the frustration among the educated youth. Universities must concentrate on providing suitable jobs based on the qualifications and skills of the students, simple award of UG and PG degrees should be slowly stopped by universities and only the courses which can enhance employability of students are to be started by the varsities, latest challenge to the universities of Telangana is competing with private universities which are shortly coming up. The government and the potential Telangana universities should prepare to face this challenge, otherwise, the GER in state universities will go down and they will face the problem of closure. The vice chancellors and faculty of the state universities, therefore, have to face this situation with boldness and protect the interests of weaker sections of Telangana as they cannot afford to get admission in the elite private universities, the search committees is very important as they have to play leadership role to take the universities to higher academic heights then only the dream of Bangaru Telangana will be realized.

Conclusion:

The present study has provided critical insights into the access and equity challenges faced by all students in higher education institutions across Telangana. Despite significant efforts by the government and universities to enhance educational opportunities for rural communities, the findings reveal persistent disparities in enrolment, retention, and academic performance the highlighted several systemic barriers contributing to these inequities, including socio economic disadvantages, cultural disconnection within the academic environment, and insufficient support services tailored to the unique needs of tribal students, some universities have made notable strides in promoting inclusivity and creating supportive educational frameworks, others lag behind, indicating a need for a more cohesive and systematic approach to addressing these challenges this study includes the expansion of targeted scholarship programs, the integration of culturally relevant curricula, and the establishment of dedicated support services students, and enhancing

faculty training on cultural sensitivity can significantly contribute to creating a more inclusive educational atmosphere. Ultimately, the findings underscore the importance of continued advocacy for policies that prioritize access and equity in higher education for populations by addressing these disparities, Telangana universities can not only empower students but also enrich the educational landscape as a whole, the success of these initiatives will be crucial in promoting social justice and equality, ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to succeed in higher education, this study serves as a call to action for policymakers, educators, and stakeholders to work collaboratively towards creating an equitable and inclusive higher education government increase funding and quality aspects releases notifications and recruit teaching and non teaching faculty in higher educational institutions for better society and maintain quality standards, measures future generations that recognizes and celebrates the rich cultural heritage of communities in Telangana.

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