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## Education In India: New Challenges And Issues

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### Abstract

One of the key elements contributing to a nation's growth is education. Due to the fluidity of the world environment and the current needs, it should be modified. It offers a chance to thoughtfully analyse the ethical, religious, moral, and social issues that mankind is now facing. For India's economy to flourish, we need more intellectual and successful people. Many Indians who are renowned for their traits and abilities live close by. India must improve the quality of education overall and higher education with research and development in particular if it is to become a centre for education or a profitable participant in the global economy. The overall performance of India's higher education system is the primary topic of this essay. We look for steps the administration has done to improve the quality of the educational system.

This article seeks to uncover fresh issues and roadblocks in Indian higher education. According to the study's findings, there is a need for policies and solutions that incorporate the expectations of enterprises and young people with those of numerous stakeholders, such as students, industry, educational institutions, parents, and the government.

### Introduction

For a growing nation like India, higher education is crucial and promotes furthering human growth. Since India's independence, higher education has grown astronomically. India has generated highly sought-after professionals in the fields of science, engineering, technology, medicine, education, and management. due to the significant contribution made by the people and resources provided by higher education, notably technical education, it is now one of the top ten countries in terms of our industrial and technology capability. India has already stepped into the age of the explosion of information. Its success in the nuclear and space fields has demonstrated its enormous potential. Spacecraft, satellites, the internet, and other scientific offshoots will usher in a new era in a few decades. People have the chance to think on the important social, cultural, moral, economic, and spiritual concerns that mankind is currently grappling with thanks to higher education. Specialized information and competent individuals are made available by higher education for national development. India will have the greatest population of youth in the world in the next decades. Although there is not a strong association between individuals and higher education. Growing numbers of young people can be a problem.

If prospective employability materialises, this would be a fantastic asset. On the other hand, if we don't offer work and education, the Indian economy would enter a downward spiral. The key to attaining sustainability is education. The Education Commission 1964–1966 stated that a country's population density is moulded in its classrooms when describing the importance of education in social and economic development. Assuming that a self-sustaining economic process is based on the externalities that human capital produces, education builds human capital, which is the foundation of economic advancement.

### **Indian Higher Education Scenario:**

On the basis of a study, the higher education sector has expanded significantly since 1951. Between 1951 and 2014, the number of colleges and universities increased from 28 to 677 and from 578 to 3800, respectively. As a result, both the number of instructors and pupils has greatly expanded. The fact that student enrolment has increased over time more than teacher enrolment may be attributable to the government's significant investment in elementary and secondary education at the school level. Increase in school enrolment and the number of institutions, as well as the mushrooming expansion of higher education institutions In India, there were 677 universities and 38,000 colleges as of the end of 2014. To meet demand, however, we still need more than 1500 universities. We find both the number of colleges and universities as well as student enrolments are increasing in our educational system. The majority of these institutions have connected colleges where authorised and taught undergraduate courses are offered. However, if we contrast this improved statistic with the rising population, we must question if it is still improving. The growth in both the number of boys and girls enrolled in higher education from 2010 to 2011. The study examines the fact that there are fewer women enrolled than men. The data clearly demonstrates that there is a 19% enrolments difference in research, followed by a 17% difference in undergraduate enrolments and a 13% difference in graduate enrolments.

### **Emerging Problems:**

For any nation, and India in particular, the role of higher education in the developing knowledge economy is highly important and diverse. India's higher education system is having trouble with several important problems. The lack of funding for higher education, the emphasis on theories rather than practical knowledge, conventional teaching methods, privatisation, and the poor facilities and infrastructure, a quota system, and a lower level of teaching quality are a few of these.

### **A lower standard of instruction:**

Issues with quality plague many of our educational system's institutions and colleges. Numerous problems, such as a shortage of qualified teachers, subpar instruction, outmoded and restrictive curriculum and pedagogy, a lack of accountability and quality control, and the separation of research and teaching, generate concerns about the Indian educational system.

### **Higher education funding:**

The issue of financial limitations relating to higher education before the government is one of the most crucial things that must be taken into consideration. One of the criteria used to assess the quality of education across the board for all nations is the government's spending on education generally and higher education in particular. 20–30% of the state government's revenue budget is already allocated to education. It is unable to increase its spending. Higher education in India has gotten less funding from the government than previous levels. It is not viable for India to undertake the kind of significant public investments in R&D that gave rise to Western institutions with a strong focus on research, such as MIT, UC Berkeley, or University of Cambridge. Less emphasis on practical knowledge and more attention on theories: The Indian educational system places less emphasis on practical knowledge and more emphasis on theories. There are minimum percentage requirements that are high in many positions.

### **Traditional approaches to education:**

Professors continue to use outdated instructional techniques like boards and markers. They dislike using audio-visual tools in the classroom. Additionally, they are out of touch with current knowledge and desires of the international business community.

## **Privatization:**

Privatization of higher education appears to be a new, positive trend in the current environment, and it is crucial to retain originality, adaptability, and quality. It is necessary given the economic consequences of globalisation and liberalism. Institutions both governmental and private run concurrently in India. In India, private universities provide 50% of all higher education, much of it at a high cost and without government funding. But things are not as straightforward as they seem. Private providers are highly motivated to "minimise expenses" by lowering the standard of instruction offered at their institutions in order to maximise profit. Last but not least, one of the significant challenges for the higher education sector's future viability is the quality of the teaching personnel. Prior to this, they had a commitment to their profession, their topics, and their pupils. High incomes are available now, but commitment levels are lower. Therefore, it is imperative that the higher education system be liberated from pointless restrictions and political meddling.

## **Inadequate infrastructure and amenities:**

Many of the institutions in India lack the necessary infrastructure and resources to effectively educate students. Even many private institutions offer courses outside of traditional classroom settings. Many pupils are still unable to use the Internet and Wi-Fi facilities.

## **System of quotas:**

Introducing a quota and reservation system for various categories in schooling reduced its quality. Even deserving applicants from general categories are passed over, and due to quotas, we are forced to choose someone from a restricted group although he is unqualified.

## **Developing issues:**

The Indian system, which is the second-largest higher education system in the world and can accommodate millions of students from all socioeconomic classes, provides for the educational demands of the creation of a positive academic environment in higher education institutions. Without a doubt, India is now dealing with a lot of issues related to poverty, unemployment, and the loss of moral and spiritual values. But during the past few decades, India's higher education system has faced a number of issues and challenges that are mentioned below.

## **Our varied educational system:**

Geographically, the rural-urban, rich-poor setup has presented the educational institutions with a significant problem. Different colleges, universities, and technical institutes have delivered education of varying forms and calibre. While a few of them are actually providing high-quality instruction, the most are working in the worst conditions. We appreciate UGC sharing the list of these phoney universities and institutions that engage in academic fraud.

## **Political considerations' interference:**

Most educational institutions, both aided and unaided, are controlled by powerful political figures who currently hold important positions in university governing boards. They have created their own youth cells and support political student organisations. They take advantage of the kids' enthusiasm for political gain. The students start to build their political careers while losing sight of their personal goals.

## **Economic Challenges:**

Is this one of the most problematic developments that the communities have been subjected to through the current higher education system? Many of the students, who make up the majority of the student body, are unable to support themselves with the barest needs of existence. Economic hardships have gotten worse as a result of rising prices, spending practises on luxury, rising population, food shortages, corruption, selfishness, etc. Students who work part-time jobs to pay for their education should split their concentration between a job and their college or university studies. The majority of today's students, almost 75% of them, are having

financial difficulties. Earn while you learn programmes fall short in helping students overcome financial obstacles.

### **No moral principles:**

Our traditional morals and values are under grave danger as a result of the industrialization that followed the rapid advancement of science and technology. The unhappiness and uprising of the younger generation are the results of a failing value system.

### **Ideas for raising the standard of higher education include:**

For enhancing the standard of higher education, there are several recommendations and expectations from the government, business, educational institutions, parents, and students.

### **Education that is student-centered and employs dynamic techniques:**

Higher education delivery methods must also fit the demands of learning to learn, learn to do, learn to be, and learn to become. Teachers will need new attitudes and new skills if they want to implement dynamic educational techniques and provide student-centered instruction. Lecture-based teaching strategies will need to make way for strategies that emphasise independent study, one-on-one conversations between professors and students, and engaging seminars and workshops. It will be necessary to use distant learning techniques on a large scale.

### **Reforms to Exams:**

It is necessary to undertake examination changes that progressively replace the terminal, yearly, and semester exams with regular and continual evaluations of students' learning progress.

### **Cooperation on a global scale:**

Through conventional activities including research, innovation, teaching, human resource development, and continuing education, India's universities have played a significant role in the spread and advancement of knowledge. Another role that is becoming more crucial is international collaboration. In the global community, it is becoming increasingly important to work together internationally and take proper action to address problems with global implications, one of which is higher education. This is due to the greater development of transportation and communication.

### **A rise in the number of universities:**

Due to our increased population and the fact that there are now too few universities, we need more. The National Knowledge Commission (NKC), a high-level advisory body established by the Indian government on June 13, 2005, was tasked with advising the prime minister on the status of education in India and the reforms that should be made to this industry. It was led by Sam Pitroda, and in November 2007 it turned in a report. The NKC has suggested that 1500 institutions be established by 2015 in order to raise the gross enrollment percentage to 15%. In order to oversee the general quality of higher education in India, it has also recommended for the creation of an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE).

### **Programming Across Cultures:**

After receiving an education, travelling to as many locations in India and around the globe as possible with the assistance of the government is essential in order to gain an understanding of the people, cultures, arts, literature, religions, technological advancements, and global human society's progress.

### **Action Plan to Enhance Quality:**

External specialists must undertake an academic and administrative audit once every three years at colleges to guarantee excellence in all disciplines within academia. Colleges that are self-supporting must seek for accreditation and satisfy the requirements. Colleges and universities should acknowledge the necessity of providing high-quality education and present an action plan for doing so.

## **Exceptional Education:**

The creation of Standards in education is not given importance by the Indian government. India must strive to meet the world's educational standards. Numerous national institutions, such as those in the USA, UK, Australia, etc., permit international students to pursue higher education both in-person and online. Similarly, world-class universities in India may provide study programmes to international students by leveraging the trend of globalisation. Its educational institutions must embrace a standard, worldwide curriculum in order to reach this aim.

## **Development of the Self:**

Finally, education must foster personality development rather than stifle innate talent or inventiveness. Opportunities for educated persons are inherently abundant in the globalised world. Business process outsourcing (BPO) initiatives have expanded trade rivalry as a result, resulting in the manufacture of high-quality items and their simple availability on the global market. That is how capable and skilled folks may improve the globe for peace, wealth, and growth.

## **Technology-rich libraries:**

The book collections at our university libraries are excellent, yet they are all disorganised. A serious study environment and an online library are required. Indian colleges should focus more on offering high-quality instruction that meets international norms.

## **Conclusion**

1. As a conclusion, we may state that while higher education has experienced expansion in terms of institutions, enrolments, etc., it has not been adequate. Higher education in India is now experiencing a number of difficulties that must be resolved via the development of appropriate policies and their efficient execution.
2. In India, higher education performs a variety of functions. It is extremely important to many people, and improvements are frequently viewed as grave dangers to certain social structures that favour powerful groups.
3. Language has been a comparable issue in which the government sought to tackle a challenging social and political problem through policy pertaining to higher education. Politics is the consequence, and most frequently the adjustments are not adopted.
4. To sum up, higher education in India is a very significant component of contemporary Indian society and is connected with the social and political structures of the nation. It requires progress, change, and importance. Realistic judgements of what is feasible and what is not are essential for effective reform and improvement planning.

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