



ATAMNIRBHAR BHARAT AND HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract: Education is the foundation stone for the development of an economy. The Indian higher education system is the world's third largest, providing education and training in almost every discipline. From 3.85 crore in 2019–20, the total number of students enrolled in higher education has climbed to about 4.14 crore in 2020–21. The number of students enrolled has increased significantly by almost 72 lakh (21%) from 2014–15. But still India is unable to improve basic problems of higher educational institutes, ultimately it resulted in unemployment among youth. As per the new mission of Atmanirbhar Bharat, there is a need to make the people of India self-reliant. So, there is need to improve the standard of higher education to train fresh graduates in new skills. Beside it, the India's target of Atmanirbhar Bharat can be achieved only if government, industry and academia come together and form a golden triangle. Through This paper, an attempt is made to highlight the important initiatives taken by the government for the promotion of higher education in India and its effect on gross enrollment ratio.

Keywords: Education, GER, Atmanirbhar Bharat.

I. Introduction

Education does not initiate on our first day of official schooling nor is it bound by the four walls of the area where an educator imparts his awareness. Education for education's sake, is no more an acceptable proposition, it has to be purposeful and demonstrate usefulness not just to the individual and the community but to the nation and the world at large. One time education has remained completely inadequate for life time employability. Continuous up gradation of skills has therefore become imperative for economic growth and social development. The country presently faces a dual challenge of severe paucity of highly trained, quality labor, as well as non-employability of large section of the educated workforce that possess little or no job skills. To promote economic and industrial development in country, to maintain balance between demand-supply of workforce the essential requirement is the capacity to develop skilled manpower of good quality by integration of work with education.

Education must aim at training individuals to be innovative, capable of evolving, adapting to the rapidly changing world and assimilating change. The Department of Higher Education oversees the provision of higher and technical education and training for individuals aged 18 and above. Higher education includes undergraduate and postgraduate programs, doctoral degrees, and certificates, all accessible after the successful completion of 12 years of schooling or its equivalent. The University Grants Commission was formally established in November 1956 under the act of Parliament in 1956, as a statutory body of the Government of India by first Education Minister Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad to develop and modernize India's education system and at the same time to promote the scientific advancement.

On the other hand, Atmanirbhar Bharat, a synonym of 'self-reliant India' is a policy implemented by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi for making India "a bigger and more important part of the whole world economy. Atmanirbhar Bharat doesn't mean "self-containment", but not to "isolate it from the whole world". The 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' or 'Self-Reliant India Mission' was announced in India for the 1st time during COVID–19 pandemic on 12 May 2020.

In March 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign is not about bringing back socialism or import substitution, rather the intent is to boost manufacturing. Hon'ble PM said that a self-reliant India will stand on five pillars viz. Economy, which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change; Infrastructure, which should become the identity of India; System, based on 21st century technology driven arrangements; Vibrant Demography, which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India; and Demand, whereby the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilized to full capacity. He underlined the importance of strengthening all stakeholders in the supply chain to increase, as well as fulfil, the demand.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on May 12th, 2020, announced the Special economic and comprehensive package of Rs. 20 lakh crore - equivalent to 10% of India's GDP – to fight COVID-19 pandemic in India. As part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat packages, the government decided to change the definition of Small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) to promote employability among the youth. It is the greatest strength as India's has more young people who can contribute to the development of the country.

II. Literature review

The literature review is focused upon the studies conducted on higher education in India. The prominent studies include;

Mehta, Kapu (2004) examined *philanthropy as broad trends in education*. It was revealed from the study that with political interference in admission policies, internal organization and funding, governance becomes severe weak.

Saxena, et al. (2010) in its study on *higher education and research scenario in Indian context* discussed that research in higher education and collaboration of educational institutions with industry will increase the skill among the youth and it will definitely improve the employability.

Rajalakshmy (2012) studied the *problems of higher education in India in the context of globalization*. It was concluded that there is a need of government interference in regulating the higher educational institutions and ultimately it will help to improve the quality of higher education.

Bhattacharya and Pal (2016) Discussed *present status of higher education in India and recent trends in higher education* with issues like quantity of institutions, field of education, enrollment pattern, teacher availability, constitutional provision on higher education, quantity control mechanism. Recent trends like privatization and globalization emerging in the field of Indian higher education was also highlighted in this study.

III. Objectives of the study

1. To know the initiatives taken by the government for the higher education.
2. To study the enrollment of students in different institutions.

IV. Collection of data

The study is mainly descriptive in nature. It is based on secondary data and information which is collected from the concerned sources as per the requirement of the research. Secondary data is collected from books, articles, and reports of the various ministries, annual reports and government official websites.

Initiatives by Government for the Higher Education

The government is taking number of reforms in higher education by implementing the National Education Policy 2020. The National Education Policy of India 2020 (NEP 2020), was started by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020, outlines the vision of new education system of India. The policy is a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India.

The policy aims to transform India's education system by 2030. It proposes a 4-year multi-disciplinary bachelor's degree in an undergraduate programme with multiple exit options. In order to implement it effectively additional help is expected from the Centre budget. Government has introduced various learner centric based schemes such as National Credit Framework, Academic Bank of Credits, National Higher Education Qualification Framework and multiple entry and exit schemes. Till now more than 1600 universities and colleges are registered on ABC platform along with 2.75 crore students on the same portal.

The facility of flexibility is provided to the universities by adopting SWAYAM platform through which millions of students have earned certificates. Similarly, there would be a need to enhance functionality and capacity and to provide ongoing support to users for other portals.

The aim of NEP is to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education along with vocational education from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035, for this it would require investments and capacity addition. Similarly, main focus is on increasing the vocational education capacity. Further, efforts will be required to meet the expectation of having at least one large multidisciplinary HEI in or near every district by 2030 and of having multidisciplinary universities and colleges, establish education departments, carrying out research in

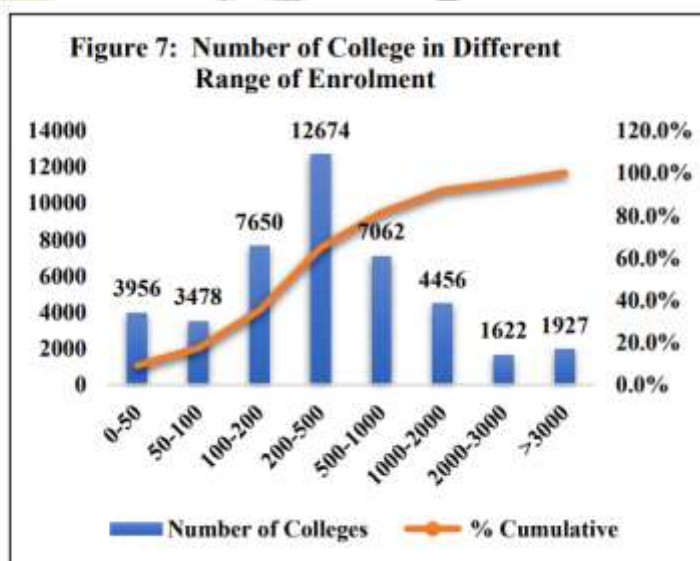
education and running B.Ed. courses. To achieve these NEP goals, some resources are required and it is expected that government will provide funds to the universities and colleges. In the 2022-23 budget, the total allocation for the Higher Education Department is ₹47,619.77 crore. In the previous Budget, it was ₹44,094.62 crore. In the Revised Estimates, it went up to ₹ 57,244.48 crore.

Gross Enrolment Ratio: One of the challenges in Indian higher education sector has been that of Access and participation measured by the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), which has been consistently low compared to international standard. As per the AISHE report of session 2021-22 student enrollment is as under:

- Total enrolment in higher education has increased to nearly 4.33 crore in 2021-22 from 4.14 crore in 2020-21 (increase of 18.87 Lakh, 4.6%) and 3.42 crores in 2014-15 (an increase of 26.5%)
- Female enrolment in Higher Education increases to 2.07 crore (32% increase since 2014- 15).
- Of the 4.33 crore students enrolled in 2021-22, 15.3% belong to Scheduled Caste, 6.3% belong to Scheduled Tribe, 37.8% are from Other Backward Class and remaining 40.6% students are from other communities.
- The top 6 States in terms of Student Enrolment are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan. They constitute 53.3% of the total Student Enrolment.
- In the year 2021-22, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education for age group 18- 23 years has increased to 28.4, from 27.3 in 2020-21 and 23.7 in 2014-15 (as per population projection based on 2011 census.)
- Female GER has increased to 28.5 in 2021-22 from 27.9 in 2020-21 and 22.9 in 2014-15. Female GER continues to be more than male GER for fifth consecutive year as per AISHE 2021-22.
- Notably, Government Universities constituting 58.6% of total Universities, contribute 73.7% of total enrolment, Private Universities account for 26.3% of total enrolment.
- Further, Government Colleges constituting 21.5% of total colleges contribute 34.8% of total enrolment. Private (Aided) colleges constituting 13.3% of total colleges account for 20.6% enrolment, whereas the 65.2% Private (Un-aided) Colleges account for only 44.6% of total enrolment.
- About 78.9% of the students are enrolled in undergraduate level courses and 12.1% are enrolled in postgraduate level courses.
- Based on actual response at undergraduate level, enrolment is highest in Arts (34.2%), followed by science (14.8%), Commerce (13.3%) and Engineering & Technology (11.8%).
- Total Ph.D. enrolment has increased 81.2% in 2021-22 (2.13 lakh) from 2014-15 (1.17 lakh)
- Female Ph.D. enrolment has doubled in 2021-22 (0.99 lakh) from 2014-15(0.48 lakh).

It is observed that majority of colleges are having a smaller number of enrolments. 64.8% of the Colleges are having enrolment less than 500, which is a very large number and it is point where there is a need to pay more attention and 16.5% of the colleges have a student strength between 500 to 1000. Just 18.7% of the colleges have more than 1000 students’ strength .as per AISHE report, The distribution of number of colleges in different range of enrolment is given as under.

Box 4: Cumulative Number of College in Different Range of Enrolment		
College Enrolment	Number of Colleges	% Distribution
0-50	3956	9.2%
50-100	3478	8.1%
100-200	7650	17.9%
200-500	12674	29.6%
500-1000	7062	16.5%
1000-2000	4456	10.4%
2000-3000	1622	3.8%
>3000	1927	4.5%



source: aishe report

V. CONCLUSION:

Higher Educational Institutions' role towards ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT, NEP 2020 will prove beneficial. Because with the implementation of NEP, more qualitative research is to be done, it will bring revolution in the education industry. Moreover, major focus is on vocational education, it will make the youth self-reliant and employed. NEP 2020 is designed to fulfill its all objectives up to 2030. But it is suggested to give due importance to all institutions to increase its enrollment because only then all facilities can be utilized optimally. It is therefore concluded that enrollment of students has increased gradually over a period of time, but major enrollment is at undergraduate level, even in Ph.D. enrollment is also very high, so focus is on doing more research but it should be qualitative only then it will help to achieve the goals of new education policy. so, there is a need to enroll the students in PG courses as well so that they can become more capable and knowledgeable. Government is also required to support the higher educational institutions by providing more funds and facilities.

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