

**QUALITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION-CONSTRAINTS AND
CHALLENGES –AN OVERALL VIEW**



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ABSTRACT

Education is a unique investment for the present and the future because the development of human resources is important for the growth of the nation in various ways. The cardinal principle was the basis of the national policy on education which was launched by Govt of India 1986. The core issues of this policy mainly adhere to Universalization of Elementary Education, Vocationalization of Secondary Education and Reorganization of Higher Education. The recent study by the World Bank on 194 countries revealed that only 16% growth was due to physical capital and 20% growth due to natural capital, where as 64% growth due to human capital and social capital. The UNDP Programme has planned to invest 450 million dollars in India during X Plan for HRD to maximize. The human potential India accounts for less than 1 per cent of GDP. The country has to catch up 50 years of lost time and opportunities in the area of new technological inventions in higher education.

According to the Indian economic survey of 2006-07 has stated that central government expenditure (plan and non-plan) on social services in particular on education funds allocated to a tune of Rs.3630 crore during the year 1995-96 being increased rapidly to Rs.23530 crore in the year 2006-07, while spending such huge amount the nation has achieved the literacy rate of (2001) 65.38 in which male at 75.2% and the female with 53.7% in India. Which achieved the highest of literacy rate is Kerala 90.90% and lower is the Bihar 47.0%. Whereas Xth five year plan allocated the funds under annual plan-wise of Rs.32, 577.30 crore for the 2006-07 and percentage of distribution of has stood at 7.4 per

cent in the same year. Thus Education has the important task of preparing the people for different walks of life would determine environments are now quickly changing, particularly post independent period has witnessed enormous expansion of higher education undoubtedly the key factor for economic prosperity of any nation is characterized by social-political, cultural, scientific and technological expectations which have a severe impact of globalization liberalization and privatization on the future. Thus, this paper attempts do find and to elucidate, the expectations of the performance higher education towards human development to meet the emerging demand and the challenges has an instrument to promote democratic values as well as impart skills necessary for ushering in the development of the nation.

INTRODUCTION

The World Conference on Higher Education in the 21st century Vision and Action and held in Paris on 5th October, 1998 was aimed at providing a solution to the challenge of unprecedented demand for a great diversifications in higher education and of setting in motion a process of in-depth reforms in it worldwide. The essence of Education as in the Crowther's report says, "Education is a social service. Colleges and universities are no longer ivory towers. Teaching is a public activity Learning is a lifelong process. Yesterday education is found to be inadequate today. Next month's scientific discovery can make this year's text book obsolete". Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has rightly remarked as, "some people seem to thin education is not so important as putting-up a factor I may sacrifice any number of factors, I will not sacrifice human beings and their education because it is human beings who set up factories an produce things we want". Thus, education plays a vital role in improving the standard of living of people of any nation.

According to the publication of the "Human Development Centre, Human Development in South Asia" (1998). 'Education is not merely a means of better income and employment opportunities for individuals or higher economic growth

potential for their nations. The social benefits of education spread in many directions. Education leads to better healthcare, smaller family norms, greater community and political participation, less income inequality, and greater reduction of absolute poverty is decisive. No educated society can remain politically, socially and economically repressed for long. Education is a basic component of social cohesion and national identity.

LITERACY

Further, Prof Amartya Sen illustrates the integral connection between literacy and life expectancy, between literacy and infant mortality and between literacy and population explosion. As per the census of 2001 the rate of literacy was at 65.38 per cent even more than 60 years after the independence about 35 percent of the population remain illiterate in India still twelve rate literacy rates are lower than the national literacy rate. The figures show that the female literacy rate was 53.7 percent, which less to compare with male (75.2 percent). The highest literacy rate registers at 90.90 percent in Kerala and the lowest the Bihar with 47 percent. But the literacy rate of Andhra Pradesh is comparatively higher than Bihar. Interns of literacy India's attainments as compared to several

Asian countries are rather disappointing. According to World Development Report 2005, adult male illiteracy rate was 39 percent in India (2002) as against 9 percent in China, 8 percent in Sri Lanka, 7 percent in Philippines and 3 percent in Argentina. Female literacy rates are also substantially lower than that in India.

HIGHER EDUCATION-CURRENT STATUS -INSTITUTIONALIZATION IN A.P

The Higher Education system comprises both general and technical education. University and higher education are no less important from the point of view of human resource development. The environment of students in institutions of higher education was 10.02 million in 2004-2005, in which women students were about 4.03 million constituting 40.2 per cent to total enrollment.

Higher Education sector deals with the institutions imparting education at 10+2 level degree and university levels includes technical and distance education programs at different levels. At present there are 19 universities under Higher Education Sector. Apart from 7 deemed universities are established in the Andhra Pradesh state.

Above all, there are 176 Govt colleges, 181 private Aided colleges, 1012 private un-aided colleges and 38 oriental colleges making a total of 1407. The courses would be more relevant from the point of view of securing of employment and self-employment.

a) Technical and Pharmacy Education: -

Govt. is also laying lots of stress on the development of information technology

related courses for which there is very good potential. There are 18041 seats IT related courses in the state at present. The Government has given a lot of importance to the development of pharmacy Education to meet the growing requirements of the health sector. During the academic year there are 38 colleges with 1817 seats. The World Bank project for strengthening technical education was completed during the year 1998-99 at a cost of Rs.140 crores. The project included modernization of laboratories, training of teacher, increase in the enrollment of girl purchase of books and improvements of infrastructure.

b) Medical, Agricultural and Engineering colleges:-

The Government is expanding the facilities for medical education by permitting at least one medical and dental college in each district. The new colleges are being opened by encouraging private participation. At present there are 21 medical colleges included 9 private colleges offering a total of 2800 students there are 2 government as 4 private dental colleges providing intake of 140.

The state as the following educational infrastructure in the field of agriculture and allied sciences under NG Raja Agricultural University. There are six agricultural colleges providing intake of 770, one college of Agricultural Engineering. With 28 intakes and Veterinary research colleges intake 273, one college where of fisheries research with 30, and 2 Home science colleges providing intake of 281.

Regarding Engineering Education the basic strategy has laid down in the state policy to ensure an enabling environment conducive receive to rapid growth, particularly by encouraging private

investment in higher education designing countries in tune with information Technology and computer sciences there are 245 engineering colleges were started provides intake strength of 70,000 students in during 2001-05. It proposed to increase the seats in engineering colleges by 15 percent every year.

On the other hand, as a result of the pro-active policy adopted by the Govt. of the state has witnessed on the impressive growth in facilities for the expansion of MBA/MCA courses, There are 222 MBA college were established utilizing intake strength 9413 along with 326 MCA colleges providing intake of 12,863.

ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN PROMOTING HIGHER EDUCATION

As the University is a learning organization, emphasis will be given to initiate new forms of an academic collaboration by adopting new technologies, introduce an online networking facility among universities not only to prepare a date-base of leasing resources but concentrate on their strengthen the an produce quality materials for use by other institutions. Universities will also be encouraged to go in for consultancy and mobilize resources which would be used for the development of the university. It would have to share resources while utilizing the available resources of optimally. It will have to think in the future tense and act in the present a provide an early warning system for change management.

QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION - ROLE OF NAAC

The Setting up of a National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), as a registered society under the umbrella of the university Grants

Commission (UGC) two years ago may be considered a step in the right direction. There is currently another such agency, namely the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) Functioning under the aegis of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have striven towards the ensuring quality of education at university.

It is a boon on the part of the education system makes enormous efforts to identify an effective utilization of academic resources at all levels so as to establish a hallmark of quality in higher education through an institutionalized modality forming part of the process of accreditation through NAAC.

The NAAC has made it clear that accreditation is a voluntary process which would not encroach on the academic autonomy rather to focus on the fulfillment of the objectives is to identify the strength and weakness of the institutions "in respect of infrastructure, academic activities, financial resources and their effective utilization would be highlighted to pursue an excellence in ensuring the quality of education particularly at university level.

CHALLENGES TO FACE IN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Although, the modus operandi of Higher education has emphasized for the betterment of different walks of life into various dimensions to enhance their capabilities in social, economic, political, scientific and technology devices for a meaningful life. Still, it has to face some bitter challenges on the modern operandi of the higher education request such as:

1. The expansion of higher education has been completely unplanned unwieldy and chaotic with inadequate infrastructure as well as shortage of efficient staff.
2. It is the greatest challenge to regulate permitted correspondence, technical parties through difference education reports.
3. The general standard of education is low and the percentage of failure and dropouts are very high. This involves a heavy loss to the society.
4. The best qualified among the educated people migrate to developed western countries.
5. A specific contradiction between notes, goals and resource allocation for higher education.
6. The institutions are seriously facing a challenge to maintain and qualitative improvement of education specially technical professional higher education.
7. A confusion of objectives, curriculums, defective examination system often a big challenge to higher education.
8. Lack of eminency in strengthening of monitoring and evaluation machinery for effective implementation of the plan program in higher education is yet another challenge.
9. Inconsistencies between stated goals and actually policy due to interference of political system may deteriorate the standards of higher education.
10. After the microscopic observation regarding the challenges of higher education still the policy makers, academicians and planners have to consider the following suggestion to

raise the quality of human resources, radical changes will have to be in the existing education system.

SUGGESTIONS

1. The Research work should be both productive and meaningful as the emphasis will be on quality and not on quantity.
2. Education should be made job-oriented restrictions should be introduced in the process of admissions in higher education.
3. Education in science, medical, engineering and professional courses are costly and its expansion should be carefully planned.
4. In rural areas emphasis should be on agriculture and vocational education.
5. Technical education should be properly planned.
6. Instead of opening new colleges and other institution of Higher Education, rather the government must try to improve the standards of higher education.
7. The competent authority must check the financial and administrative irregularities in the Higher Education in particular Universities.

CONCLUSION

The planning commission of India, and the national policies education, the revised sophisticated views of the academicians and highly talented personality of the nation have been emphasising to formulate an integrated approach to higher education which enhances to attain an excellency in higher

Education through an equitable and cost-effective manner needed for the expansion of education which boost-up the higher education financial self supporting in the contest of changing socio-economic scenario with a view to redesigning and restructuring of courses which strengthen of research facilities in higher education is the need of the hour.

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